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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Have you already read the newly enacted labor reform law?

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INSIDE

GOP Primary
The Republican presidential race turned to Florida on Sunday, ever more chaotic and contentious.
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Kenya Mayhem
Several people were beaten and hacked to death with machetes in a Nairobi slum Sunday.
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Garment board expects to get $100K more. **PAGE 3**

16 candidates vie for Miss Marianas Teen title. **PAGE 7**

Wave drags man to sea

Search ongoing; another survives but is hurt

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A man is missing and is feared dead after a big wave swept him and his companion from the cliff line at Marine Beach in Kagman Sunday night.

RELATED NEWS
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A child looks at the giant waves crashing at the Marine Beach in Kagman yesterday. A man has been missing and is feared dead when a big wave swept him and his companion from the cliff line of the beach Sunday night.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Wushin revises planned LPG hike

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Wushin Corp. amended its planned $0.33-a-gallon increase in liquefied petroleum gas to just $0.18 per gallon after realizing the impact the price hike would have on its customers.

The Lower Base-headquartered LPG wholesaler had announced on Jan. 14 a $0.33-increase in its products, citing an increase in the price of its main supplier in Guam. The new round of LPG price hikes by Wushin was supposed to be implemented yesterday and would add

See WUSHIN on Page 4

Hundred-plus people join MLK Day march

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Over a hundred people of different nationalities joined yesterday's civil rights mini-march in Garapan as part of the commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

RELATED NEWS
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- Senator calls for getting rid of stereotypes. **PAGE 6**

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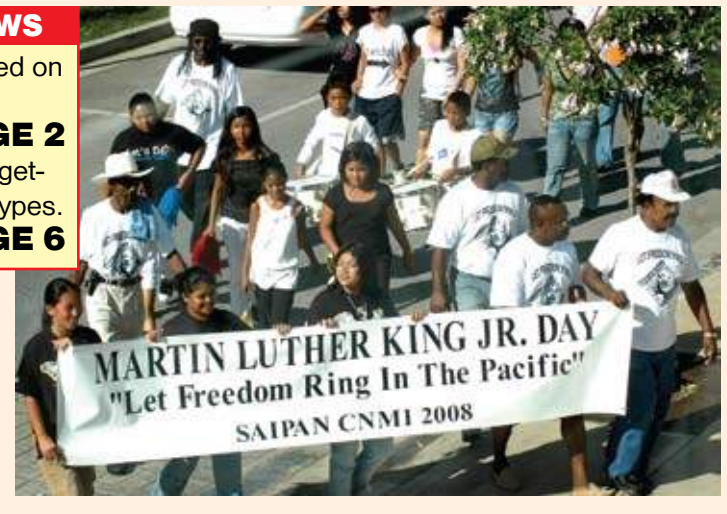

CNMI high school students, government officials, Unity Group and community members lead the march that re-enacts the Memphis March in 1968, during yesterday's second official CNMI-wide commemoration of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

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Local

Lawmakers divided on labor reform law

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

A civil rights forum turned into a debate on the new local labor law yesterday, with lawmaker panelists expressing opposing views on the legislation.

Rep. Tina Sablan said the CNMI labor law is "unjust" and embodies the lack of economic and social freedom on the islands.

Paraphrasing Martin Luther King, Sablan said that people have a moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws, once negotiation has proven futile.

Sen. Maria Pangelinan, who backed passage of the law in the 15th Legislature, asked people to hold judgment on the labor law until it is fully implemented on Feb. 1, 2008.

"It is a good legislation. It addresses the concerns of both the resident and nonresident workers. It plugs the loopholes that people used to take advantage of. Let's give it a chance," the senator said.

For his part, Rep. Edward Salas said the legislation has both good and bad points. He agreed with Sablan that the new set of lawmakers must review the law and consider amending provisions believed to be damaging to businesses and workers.

The three lawmakers were panelists at a forum held in commemoration of Martin Luther King Day.

The topic of the forum was: "Why and how the tenets of the civil rights struggle personified by Dr. King are pertinent here in the Mariana Islands."

The Department of Labor has just finished accepting comments on regulations implementing the labor law.

Pangelinan said that few comments were received and they were mostly in support of the regulations.

Deanne Siemer, legal counsel to the administration, noted earlier that the Labor Department had been circulating for comments the draft regulations as early as May 2007, while the legislative drafting proceeded in the House. The comments came from individuals, businesses, groups, foreign workers, and representatives of foreign workers.

Dr. Kathryn Takara of the University of Hawaii answers a question during a forum at the American Memorial Park Visitors center yesterday. Also in photo are panelists Rep. Tina Sablan, Rep. Edward Salas, Sen. Maria Frica Pangelinan and forum moderator Dr. Peter Eche.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Republican Party to hold first 2008 fundraiser

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Republic Party is scheduled to hold its first 2008 fundraiser event this Friday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Hotel, Hibiscus Hall.

According to National Committeewoman Marylou S. Ada, the fundraiser is a joint fundraiser for the Republican Party and for Republican Amata Coleman Radewagen, who is running for a seat in the U.S. House of Representative. Redewagen, who grew up on Saipan, is from American Samoa.

According to Ada, Radewagen is one of the highest- ranking female member in the Republican National Committee.

Radewagen is the daughter of the late Peter Tali Coleman, the former district administrator for the Mariana Islands and high commissioner for Micronesia during the Trust Territory Administration and later became the first elected governor for American Samoa.

Those who wish to attend this Friday's fundraiser can purchase their tickets for $50/single and $80/couple from any of the officers of the Republican Party or at the door on Friday evening.

There will be entertainment, food and drinks and guest speakers from the Republican Party leadership, as well as Radewagen, who will be present at the event.

The event will also lead up to the upcoming first-ever Commonwealth Republican Convention on Feb. 23, 2008, to elect six prime delegates and six alternate to the 39th Republican National Convention to be held on Sept. 1 to 4, 2008 in St. Paul, Minnesota.

The Commonwealth Republican Party will for the first time cast its selection on who will be the next GOP presidential candidate. The CNMI has nine voting delegate to the convention.

Along with Ada, Republican chairman Tom Pangelinan and National Committeeman Bo T. Palacios are automatic delegates to the National Convention.

Group tasked with resolving audit findings has not met since 2000

The group tasked with following up on audit findings has not met for almost eight years, according to the Office of the Public Auditor.

The audit group consists of the presiding officers of the Legislature, the Finance secretary, and the governor's special assistant for management and budget.

Under the law, the group is to review all audit reports issued by OPA, and recommend to the governor and to the Legislature any changes in laws or regulations needed to resolve problems identified in the audits.

However, the Interagency Audit Coordinating Advisory Group has not met since 2000. In lieu of the panel's action, OPA sends follow up letters or contacts agencies with outstanding audit recommendations to request information on corrective actions taken to implement OPA's recommendations.

But this has not proven very effective.

For the first six months of 2007, OPA tracked a total of 60 audit recommendations. Of the 60 recommendations, only one was closed. This means OPA was satisfied with the action taken by the concerned agency in relation to the audit recommendation.

The 59 other recommendations remained either open or resolved. Either the agencies involved have not taken any action to satisfy the audit recommendations, or they cannot take immediate action, but have established a reasonable plan and time frame for action.

Fifty of the open or resolved recommendations are delinquent, or have been outstanding for at least 180 days.

Agencies with delinquent recommendations as of June 30, 2007 include the Attorney General's Office, Department of Finance, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Department of Public Lands, NMI Retirement Fund, Northern Marianas College, and the Department of Labor. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

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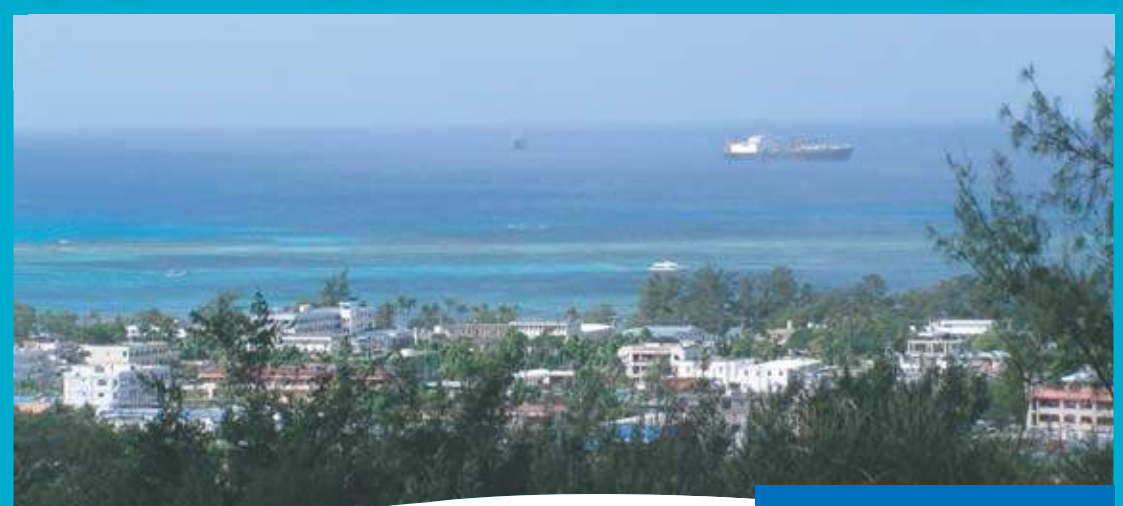

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Garment board expects to get $100,000 more

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Garment Oversight Board is expecting to get an additional $100,000 from the lawyers of plaintiffs in the class lawsuit against the garment industry.

GOB chair and former judge Timothy H. Bellas told *Saipan Tribune* that by April 2008 they will learn whether $100,000 will be transferred to the board.

Bellas said this money would be on top of the $2.3 million that the board already has in its possession and ready for distribution to the settlement class members.

He said the plaintiffs' lawyers are holding this $100,000 as reserve for tax payment.

He said explained that the $100,000 and the board's expenses are the reason why they can't compute right now the exact amount that each settlement class members is going to receive in the second distribution of checks.

"We have to wait until April; April is the tax deadline. April is when we are going to find out if they have penalties from the U.S. tax. And if they don't, then the money that they are holding in reserve is also going to come to us," Bellas said.

In the board's report, Bellas said they received the wire transfers from the plaintiffs' lawyers in the amount of $2,028,435 and $157,883.71 on Aug. 16 and Oct. 1, 2007 respectively.

As of Dec. 5, 2007, GOB had in its possession a total of $2,292,052.43.

The federal court had already approved the board's five-phase plan in accomplishing its task of distributing the money to the current and former garment workers who are eligible to the settlement money.

GOB was initially set up to oversee the monitoring program of the garment industry pursuant to the settlement agreement.

The court ordered the board to receive from the claims administrator all remaining funds and distribute the money to garment workers eligible under the settlement agreement.

LAND SEARCH
A Department of Public Safety officer and observers look trough their binoculars during yesterday's aerial, water and land search for a man who has been missing since Sunday after being swept to sea by a large wave at the Marine Beach in Kagman.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Saipan delegation elects officers today

The 16th Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation will elect its officers in an organizational session today.

Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb of the Republican Party is expected to be voted chairman of the GOP-dominated delegation.

"He has my support. I believe he is more than capable to hold that position. And I have not heard of anyone else interested in the chairmanship," said Rep. Ray N. Yumul, also of the Republican Party.

Tebuteb has served as vice chairman of the Saipan delegation for the past two years.

The Saipan delegation is composed of 13 Republicans, three Covenant Party members, two Democrats, and three independents.

The delegation increased from 19 to 21 members, with the addition of two lawmakers from the newly created Election District V.

This is a result of a Supreme Court order last year. The high court decided to increase the Saipan lawmakers after determining that all residents, including nonresident workers, should be included for purposes of apportioning the House.

The courts also said the increase, which is part of the redistricting plan, was needed to compensate for population changes since the last apportionment in 1990. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

GTA, VSNL tie-up boosts telecom services in Guam

TAMUNING, Guam—GTA TeleGuam is collaborating with VSNL, a leading communications solution provider, to offer increased service capabilities to their joint customers, according to a GTA statement issued yesterday.

GTA provides redundant connectivity via its islandwide high capacity DWDM (Dense Wave Division Multiplexing) buried fiber rings, while VSNL offers worldwide connectivity via its submarine cable and landline offerings.

GTA TeleGuam has also created a new Asia Pacific Data Center at the VSNL Piti facility. This world-class, secure facility has the redundant power and air conditioning to withstand major disasters. A GTA "Always There" Network Operations Center will be established at the new Data Center located at VSNL. The GTA NOC will provide year-round onsite personnel. GTA will offer managed hosting and backup services to business and government customers located on Guam, stateside and in Asia.

Dan Moffat, CEO and president at GTA TeleGuam said, "This is a first for Guam and reflects Guam's growing importance as a link between the U.S. and Asia. Guam is a regional hub for Asia Telecom and a gateway to the United States and Asia. Customers want security for their data. GTA has partnered with VSNL and now we can offer a world-class, secure, hosting and backup location manned at all times with diversity in connectivity both on and off island."

"By leveraging our respective network offerings both locally and internationally, GTA TeleGuam and VSNL are able to offer our global customers increased reach and services into this burgeoning region," said Thomas Tai, senior vice president, Asia Pacific, VSNL. "We are pleased to be working with GTA on this latest initiative. VSNL is committed to bringing increased services and connectivity to markets like Guam and will continue plans for future service offerings in this region including utilizing the Guam Cable Station." ***(PR)***

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'Non-resolution of teacher rep issue could mean we are dysfunctional'

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

If the CNMI Supreme Court cannot come up with a resolution to the teacher representative issue, then the CNMI Constitution and the entire government is dysfunctional, according to former teacher representative Ambrose Bennett.

"Because the governor does not want to appoint anyone, I turned [the matter] over to the court," Bennett said. "Now, if the court can't resolve it and the governor won't do anything like it is indicated in the Constitution, that means we are totally dysfunctional."

He added that "for the governor not to exercise his authority as the governor to make sure the Constitution is fulfilled is, I think, poor governing."

Bennett had submitted "certified questions" to the high court to seek a ruling on the teacher representative selection and teachers rights to bargain with the state Board of Education.

In it, he stated that because there has been a continuing disagreement between the governor and the BOE and teachers in the interpretation of the Constitution, he submitted the certified questions to "hopefully get the issue resolved."

"I may actually have to run again, but it depends on the court," said Bennett.

He added that if the high court decides for an election, he is willing to run for the post of teacher rep.

According to Association of Commonwealth Teachers, "there was not a formal decision regarding the teacher rep position."

A letter was drafted to the governor regarding the matter and no response has yet been received. According to the governor's advisor for education Dan Nielson, "a response would be sent within a week."

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said, "If the Constitution requires a gubernatorial appointment, I am sure the governor will endorse the selection of the teachers, through a democratic vote."

He added that, "The governor continues to respect the constitutional autonomy of PSS [Public School System]."

PARK CLEANUP JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Unity Movement members gather for a group photo after a cleanup at the American Memorial Park Sunday morning.

WUSHIN

From Page 1

$6.50 to the company's 90-lbs. cylinder, $3.50 to its 50-lbs. cylinder, and $1.50 to Wushin's 20-lbs. cylinder.

However, in a letter sent to customers yesterday, Wushin revised its price increase to just $0.18 per gallon, opting instead to absorb nearly half of the price hike dictated by South Petroleum Corp., its main supplier in Guam.

As such, starting yesterday, Jan. 21, Wushin's 90-lb cylinder would only cost $3.50 more, its 50-lb cylinder $2 more, and its 20-lbs cylinder $0.75 more. The company declined to be more specific about its prices.

Marites Ebuen, the company's administrative executive supervisor, said that Wushin's loyal customers were the No. 1 reason why they decided to revise their planned price increase.

"Because of the expected impact and huge burden to our customers, especially the downsizing of [our] consumer [base] because of the continued closure of garments and other related factors, we decided to review and reconsider, giving the best possible way to share the burden of the high cost of LP gas with our customers," she said.

"Despite the reality of its effect on our operation, we have to see other cost-cutting measures to cover up at least more than 40 percent of the price increase that is being passed on to us by our supplier in Guam. Instead of passing the 100-percent price increase of $0.33 cents per gallon we cut it only for $0.18 so that customers could feel that we are sharing the burden of the high cost with them," Ebuen added.

She said Wushin always aims to give the best and most reasonable price to its customers and has tried its very best to be honest in giving a fair price to all.

"The price change between LP gas suppliers differs only in a matter of time since there's a general price increase in the world market. We ask our customers to be more patient in dealing with the price change," she said.

The last price increase implemented by Wushin was Dec. 10, 2007, and it amounted to $0.18 per gallon.

For more information about the price increase implemented yesterday, contact Wushin at 322-7415/8733 or 322-7414 (fax).

Wushin offers wholesale of LPG for commercial purposes, sells LPG cylinders for residential customers as well as is a retailer of LPS accessories. The company also offers LPG connection and installation services.

Wushin was estasblished in 1981 and its first LPG facility was built in As Lito. It moved to Puerto Rico in 1996 and is now beginning a new chapter in its corporate history following its transfer to Lower Base last month.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Liquefied petroleum gas cylinders at the Wushin facility in Lower Base.

WAVE

From Page 1

As of press time yesterday, the Department of Public Safety's Boating Safety Section, Dive Rescue Team, and the Search and Rescue Unit were still trying to find 48-year-old Skaiuno M. Renguul, of Palau.

A helicopter from the U.S. Navy in Guam, along with the CNMI Emergency Management Office and the Commonwealth Ports Authority, are coordinating the aerial, water and land search for Renguul.

Renguul's companion, Frank K. Leon Guerrero, 38, managed to survive. He suffered minor abrasions and scratches to the lower back and right elbow as well as fluid in the lungs. He was placed under further observation at the Commonwealth Health Center.

DPS also put up a command post at Marine Beach. Family members of the missing person have been notified of the incident.

DPS spokesperson Lei Ogumoro told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that Renguul and Leon Guerrero were crab hunting near the cliff line along the northern portion of Marine Beach Sunday at 8:30pm.

Ogumoro said a large wave swept Renguul and Leon Guerrero out to sea.

Leon Guerrero managed to swim back toward the cliff line. He reportedly spent nearly 40 minutes searching for his companion. Leon Guerrero then swam back to shore and called the police.

Ogumoro said DPS received the report about the missing person Sunday at 11:04pm.

The Emergency Management Office issued yesterday a high surf advisory, which is now in effect until 6pm today, particularly along north facing reefs. A high surf advisory means that dangerous surf is occurring and producing life-threatening rip currents.

In March 2007, four Korean students drowned at Forbidden Island when a big wave struck them as they were hiking on the cliff line. The wave dragged them to sea.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
A helicopter from the U.S. Navy in Guam assist in the aerial search for the missing man.

HUNDRED-PLUS

From Page 1

The marchers, mostly wearing white Martin Luther King shirts, converged in front of the American Memorial Park's museum shortly before 3pm.

At 3:15pm, teacher Ambrose Bennett yelled into a megaphone "Freedom! Freedom! Freedom!" to signal the start of the civil rights' march. African American Cultural Preservation Committee president attorney Joe Hill led the march, accompanied by special guest, Dr. Kathryn Waddell Takara, an ethnic studies professor at the University of Hawaii. She is daughter of the late Dr. William H. Waddell, who was honored as the last Buffalo Soldier.

Some students, carrying a big banner that read "Let Freedom Ring in the Pacific," were at the front line followed by other youths playing drums. The marchers confined themselves to the Garapan area and circled right back to the American Memorial Park where a short program followed.

Hill said he was very pleased with the outcome of the march and the forum.

"I think it was very, very good outcome. We had a very lively forum in which I think the issues that we presented, the subject was very thoroughly discussed," Hill said.

He said they had a lot of supporters this year, including some Bangladeshis, African-Americans, Filipinos, Chinese, locals, and other nationalities.

" It was a nice mixture this time," Hill said.

Seen at the march were Rep. Tina Sablan, federal ombudsman Jim Benedetto, and Dekada counsel Stephen C. Woodruff, who were walking side by side.

Also joining the march were Rep. Rosemond Santos, Department of Public Safety Commissioner Rebecca Warfield, chief prosecutor Jeffery Warfield Sr., and educators Rod Hodges and Jaime Vergara.

Others were Dekada Movement president Bonifacio Sagana, Human Dignity Movement president Jerry Custodio, and representatives and members of Bangladeshi, Chinese, and other alien workers' groups.

Also seen either at the march or at the American Memorial Park were Sen. Maria Frica T. Pangelinan, Rep. Ed Salas, Sam Joyner, John Joyner, Betty Miller, assistant attorney general Kevin Lynch, and assistant public defender Malik Edwards.

Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez and his wife later joined the program at the amphitheater.

'Runway incursion actually an excursion'

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Taga Air Charter Services last week belied reports that the company failed to report a runway incursion to the Federal Aviation Administration in late December 2007.

In a letter to Commonwealth Ports Authority chair Rex I. Palacios dated Jan. 17, 2008, general manager-director of operations Don G. Roney disputed reports that Taga Air failed to report the Dec. 29, 2007, aircraft incident to the Federal Aviation Administration.

The Taga Air executive said that within 30 minutes of the incident, he personally telephoned and notified the FAA Honolulu FSDO, Taga Air's FAA principal operations inspector, David B. Lusk, regarding the incident, which occurred on Dec. 29, 2007, at approximately 8:45am.

Roney also said that the Saipan FAA tower was fully aware of the incident even while it was happening.

"The transcript of the radio conversation[s] between the pilot and the FAA control tower, immediately after exiting the runway, is on file with the FAA's Honolulu's FSDO [Flight Standards District Offices], confirming that the pilot reported to the tower that 'the aircraft had exited the runway and struck something,'" the Taga Air executive said in his letter to Palacios.

He further explained that the aircraft incident actually was not a runway incursion as reported.

"The aircraft incident was not a 'runway incursion' but rather a 'runway excursion', as the aircraft had been 'cleared to land' on Runway 7 by the Saipan FAA control tower; therefore; the aircraft was authorized by the tower to be positioned on the runway," said Roney.

Unfortunately, he said the aircraft exited on the left side of the runway and onto the grass, causing the aircraft's right wing flap to hit the VASI Control Box of the airport.

Roney said Taga Air's official investigative report was also faxed to the FAA Honolulu FSDO on Jan. 3 and a copy of the full report was subsequently delivered personally to CPA's chief Helgen on Jan. 12, 2008.

Taga Air submitted its proposal to CPA to provide air transport services between Saipan and Tinian using Piper PA32-300 in May and June 2005.

In Nov. 25, 2005, a Taga Air flight to Saipan took off for nightly charter services between Saipan and Tinian.

In Aug. 11 of the following year, a seven-seater Piper Cherokee plane of Taga Air crashed in the early morning at a farm in Upper Dandan injuring its pilot and six passengers.

Judge favors lawyer in lawsuit to clear title of leased Tinian land

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Superior Court has issued a decision favorable to a lawyer in his lawsuit to clear the title of a piece of land on Tinian that he had leased for 55 years.

Associate Judge Juan T. Lizama ruled that attorney S. Joshua Berger and co-plaintiff Vicente T. Seman have shown a clear chain of title to the Tinian property all the way back to its original land grant. The lot comprises 25,041 square meters.

Berger and Seman also hold two valid warranty deeds from the original grantor, said Lizama in granting plaintiffs Berger and Seman's motion for summary judgment.

"While the presence of these warranty deeds may not always negate the warranted interest the defendants hold, in this instance the defendants claim must fail," Lizama said.

In June 2006, Berger and Seman sued Antonia C. Sablan, Nora Mae Sablan, Antonia S. Basa, Antonio S. Guerrero, John T. Sablan, Oscar C. Rasa, Patricia S. Rasa, Victorino N. Igitol, Alicia S. Igitol, and five unnamed co-defendants.

In their lawsuit, the plaintiffs requested the court to stop each of the defendants and all persons claiming under them from asserting any claim to Berger's 55-year lease of the property.

According to court records, Antonia Sablan/Basa (Basa) and her former husband received a quitclaim deed to the Tinian property in 1976 from the Marianas Public Land Corp.

Basa received a quitclaim deed to the property from her husband in 1982 as part of a divorce settlement.

In 1989, Basa and Antonio S. Guerrero entered into a sales agreement for the property. The sales agreement was never completed by Guerrero and the agreement to purchase the property was assigned to John T. Sablan.

During this time Basa also entered into a power of attorney agreement with Nora Mae Sablan, appointing Nora Mae Sablan as her attorney in fact.

In November and December 1990 Basa conveyed two warranty deeds to Sablan for the property. The first deed was executed in Nora Mae Sablan's name, and the second deed was executed in Basa's name.

Both deeds convey clear title to Sablan. The deeds also contain language incorporating the promissory note for the purchase of the property.

In 1992, Basa gave Oscar C. Rasa her power of attorney. At the same time, Basa also entered into an exclusive agency agreement with Oscar Rasa and Patricia S. Rasa.

A month later Basa entered into an agreement with the Rasas for "certification of warranted interest" for the amount of $50,000.

The agreement basically stated that for the sum of $50,000 given to Basa, the Rasas would receive an interest in the property in the amount of $650,000 or 10,000 meters. The agreement also states that Basa would defend this interest.

Later than month, Victorino N. Igitol and his wife Alica S. Igitol purchased the Rasas' warranted interest for the sum of $10.

Sablan held title to the property until 1998 when, as a result of a court action, he conveyed a quitclaim deed to Vicente T. Seman to satisfy debts owed. In 2001, Seman executed a lease with Berger for the property.

Plaintiffs Seman and Berger, through counsel Loren Sutton, asked the court to issue a summary judgment.

In a Rule 56 summary judgment motion, the moving party must show that "there is no genuine issue as to any material fact and that the moving party is entitled to a judgment as a matter of law."

Victorino and Alicia Igitol, through attorney Brien Sers Nicholas, opposed the motion.

An entry of default judgment was rendered against Antonio S. Guerrero, Oscar and Patricia Rasa, Antonia A. Sablan also known as Antonia S. Basa, and Nora Mae Sablan. John T. Sablan had a stipulated judgment entered and was not present at the summary judgment hearing.

The defendants asserted that in order for Seman and Berger to plead the strength of their title to the property they must prove they had paid the promissory note and sales agreement that was incorporated into the warranty deed.

But in his order, Lizama said this assertion would be true if not for two facts.

Lizama said the proper party to bring an action for proof of payment of the promissory note would be Basa.

"As the grantor of the deed that gave the plaintiffs clear title to the property, she would be the party that would have to compel proof of satisfaction of the promissory note," the judge said.

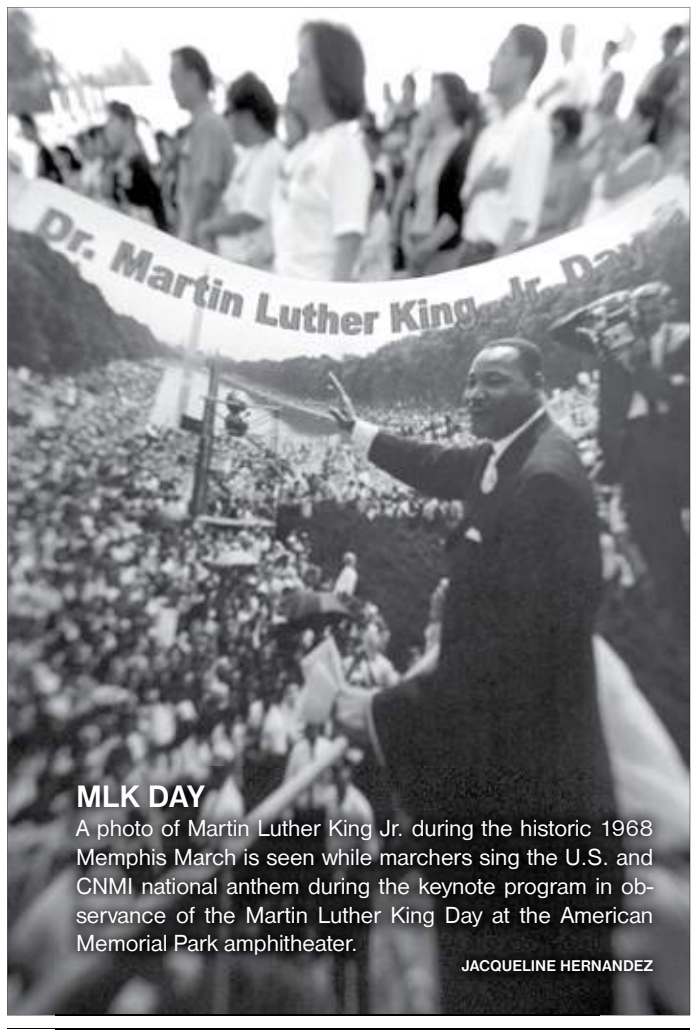
"As the parties are aware, a default judgment has been entered against Basa and so she is not here to defend or press that claim," he added.

Lizama said if Basa had raised the claim of lack of satisfaction of the promissory note at any point in the intervening 18 years since the property was deeded to Sablan, the defendants might have a colorable claim.

Lizama said if the original grantor has not brought a claim for the property, then neither can any successors in interest.

Additionally, he pointed out, due to the presence of the properly recorded warranty deed, the defendants were put on notice that the property was already encumbered.

"Defendants cannot benefit from failing to discover these already existing claims to the property. The defendants claim must fail because they have failed to show that plaintiff was not a bona fide purchaser," Lizama said.



MLK DAY
A photo of Martin Luther King Jr. during the historic 1968 Memphis March is seen while marchers sing the U.S. and CNMI national anthem during the keynote program in observance of the Martin Luther King Day at the American Memorial Park amphitheater.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Senator calls for getting rid of stereotypes

By AGNES E. DONATO
REPORTER

A Saipan senator decried stereotypes of local workers at a civil rights forum on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Sen. Maria T. Pangelinan, one of the panelists at the forum organized by the African American community in the CNMI, said that overcoming people's individual prejudices is as important as eliminating discrimination in the law.

One example of prejudice that is common in the Commonwealth, she said, is the continued reference to the local people as "lazy, unwilling to work and impossible to train or educate."

"This is stereotype has no basis in reality, and must end. It is damaging to our community and causes resentment and bitterness. It divides us. There are lazy people all over the world, they are always in the minority, and they do not personify their entire race or culture," Pangelinan said.

She urged Commonwealth residents to mingle with people of other cultures, and take the time to examine each individual's character.

"People of similar cultures tend to stick together, it is familiar and comfortable. This is fine, but we must be careful not to hold ourselves too separate lest we miss out on the personal growth that comes from learning about different cultures. Interaction and sharing is a healthy way to avoid the emergence of negative stereotypes," she said.

The forum was held in the American Memorial Park's Visitors Center at 1pm yesterday in commemoration of Martin Luther King Day. The topic of the discussion was, "Why and how the tenets of the civil rights struggle personified by Dr. King are pertinent here in the Mariana Islands."

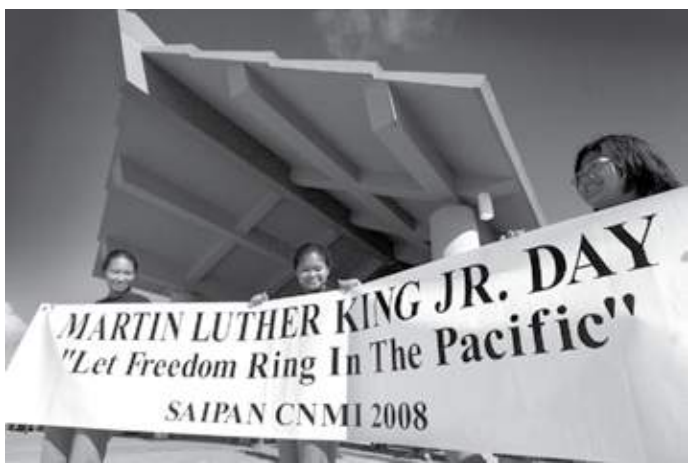
Other panelists were Rep. Tina Sablan, who spoke about the importance of exercising one's rights to freedom of speech and assembly; Edward T. Salas, who stressed King's adherence to nonviolence; and University of Hawaii professor Kathryn Takara, who shared personal experience of the civil rights movement.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

African-American Cultural Preservation Committee organizing committee member Ambrose Bennett chants with DPS commissioner Rebecca Warfield and other marchers along Paseo de Marianas in Garapan.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Rep. Tina Sablan, Federal Ombudsman Jim Benedetto, and lawyer Stephen Woodruff join the Martin Luther King Jr. Day mini-march.



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

CNMI high school students carry the banner during yesterday's second official CNMI-wide commemoration of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day at the American Memorial Park.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

African-American Cultural Preservation Committee organizing committee member Ambrose Bennett chants with CNMI high school students, government officials, Unity Group and community members as they lead the march that re-enacted the Memphis March in 1968, during yesterday's second official CNMI-wide commemoration of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The marchers walked down from the American Memorial Park down to the Garapan area and all the way to Paseo de Marianas on Beach Road.

Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez and wife Margaret bow their heads in prayer during the Martin Luther King Day invocation ceremony at the American Memorial Park amphitheater.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

African-American Cultural Preservation Committee president Joe Hill delivers his remarks while Dr. Kathryn Takara of the University of Hawaii, Sen. Maria Frica T. Pangelinan, Rep. Tina Sablan, lawyer Malik Edwards and Fr. Jojo Santos listen during the Martin Luther King Jr. Day keynote program at the American Memorial Park amphitheater.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

CNMI high school students, government officials, Unity group and community members sing the Negro national anthem.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Dr. Kathryn Takara of the University of Hawaii joins Unity group members at the American Memorial Park Visitors center yesterday.

16 bets vie for Miss Marianas Teen title

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
Rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After months of searching, Stellar Marianas finally presented the 16 girls who comprise the official list of candidates for this year's edition of the Miss Marianas Teen beauty pageant.

The 16 candidates were presented yesterday at the Aquarius Beach Tower Conference Room. Each one introduced herself and shared her plans on how to help the CNMI's youths through various community-based activities.

This year's candidates are Raquel Villagomez, Sakuraroko Halstead, Marie Jo Tarope, Leilani Cepeda, Christinas Shaunte Tudela, Renee Ann Manibusan, Pearlyn Joy Techur, Ashley Renae Fujihira, Ariel St. Claire, Monishia Marie Santos, Crystal Blare Mendiola Lola Ngeskebei, Francine Tomei, Tamara Jasmine Cepeda, Mariah Lynn Ngirbabul, and Ashley Castro Castro.

Miss Marianas Teen will represent the CNMI at the Miss Teen International pageant in Chicago in July 2008.

According to Stellar Marianas president Laila Y. Boyer, 34 girls applied for the pageant but they narrowed down the final lineup to just 16 contestants.

"We imposed a deadline for the applications, as meeting deadlines is very important. If they [contestants] are really committed, they will submit their applications [and other required documents] before the deadlines," Boyer said.

This year's theme, "Urban Glamour Girl," is a first for the pageant, Boyer said.

"Our themes are usually island themes. This time, we're taking it to a whole new level. It's going to be real exciting and real different. Everyone's in for a real treat," said Boyer.

This year's group had just finished a slumber party where each had a chance to get to know each other and make new friends.

Each girl had varied reasons as to why they decided to join the competition but Marie Jo Tarope, a 16-year-old Marianas High School student, had a unique one: She said she wanted to fulfill her dad's dream of her becoming a beauty queen.

"My dad passed away in 2001, and it was always a dream of his for me to become a part of this," said Tarope, tearing up a bit.

More than half of the contestants shared some of the projects they plan to pursue if crowned the new Miss Marianas Teen.

Leilani Cepeda, 16, of Marianas High School, said she plans to tackle issues of obesity on the island. She plans to work closely with the Diabetes Coalition on this project.

Arial St. Claire, 15, of Marianas High School, said she plans to address eating disorders, which have become a disease for many teenagers in the CNMI. She plans to create a support group for affected teenagers.

Boyer said the winner will have the opportunity to represent the CNMI as its ambassador to the world and a positive role model for their community.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The 16 official candidates vying for the 2008 Miss Marianas Teen crown. Standing left to right are Raquel Villagomez, Sakuraroko Halstead, Marie Jo Tarope, Leilani Cepeda, Christinas Shaunte Tudela, Renee Ann Manibusan, Pearlyn Joy Techur, and Ashley Renae Fujihira. Sitting left to right are Ariel St. Claire, Monishia Marie Santos, Crystal Blare Mendiola Lola Ngeskebei, Francine Tomei, Tamara Jasmine Cepeda, Mariah Lynn Ngirbabul, and Ashley Castro.

EMO warns of dangerous rip currents

Large north swells generated by a strong cold front moving southeastward from Japan will move through the Marianas region and cause high surf across Guam, Rota, Tinian and Saipan during the next couple of days.

A high surf advisory is now in effect until 6 pm today, Tuesday, particularly along north facing reefs. A high surf advisory means that dangerous surf is occurring and producing life-threatening rip currents.

Based on information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan Guam and compiled by the CNMI Emergency Management Office, expect hazardous surf of 8 to 10 feet along north facing reefs through Tuesday evening, falling below hazardous levels by Wednesday.

Northeast wind of 15 to 20 knots, with wind waves of 5 to 7 ft, east swell 4 to 5 ft and north swell 5 to 6 ft, are expected today until tonight.

EMO is advising the public and beach goers to avoid venturing near reefs and exposed beaches as wind and wave conditions support dangerous rip currents. Rip currents are life threatening to anyone entering the water. ***(EMO)***

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY BOY

Happy birthday greetings to Jeremiah Hernandez as he turned 4 last Jan. 20 with his parents Jasmine and Herm at Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe.

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Attorney for Plaintiff
BMW CORPORATION

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BMW CORPORATION, Plaintiff, v. AB KON CO. and JAY KIM, in his capacity as Company President, Defendant.

CIVIL CASE NO. 07-0313

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION.

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT: AB KON CO.

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within thirty (30) days after the service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Law Offices of Danilo T. Aguilar, whose address is P.O. Box 505301, First Floor San Jose Court Bldg., Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way, San Jose, Saipan MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of Court at the Guma Hustisia, Susupe, Saipan MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of the Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment of default may be taken against you for the relief in the complaint.

By order of this Court.

/s/ Clerk of Courts
Commonwealth of the
Northern Mariana Islands

Dated this 30th day of November, 2007.

DANILO T. AGUILAR, F0198
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Attorney for Plaintiff
BMW CORPORATION

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CIVIL CASE NO. 07-0313

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION.

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT: JAY KIM

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within thirty (30) days after the service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Law Offices of Danilo T. Aguilar, whose address is P.O. Box 505301, First Floor San Jose Court Bldg., Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way, San Jose, Saipan MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

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If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment of default may be taken against you for the relief in the complaint.

By order of this Court.

/s/ Clerk of Courts
Commonwealth of the
Northern Mariana Islands

Dated this 13th day of December, 2007.

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust have scheduled a Board of Trustees Regular Meeting for **Friday, January 25, 2008 beginning at 6:00 PM at the NMIRF Conference Room, NMI Retirement Fund Building Saipan, MP.**

The following agenda is hereby established:

I. PRELIMINARIES
- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of Minutes
- Election of Officers

II. CONSULTANT REPORTS
- Legal Counsel Report*
  - NMHC Loan Matters
  - Administration of Mortgage Loan Portfolio
- Investment Consultant Report
  - Flash Reports – December 2007
  - Performance Reports Review
  - International Money Manager Review
- Board Consultant Report
  - Financial Statements – December 2007

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
- Administrative Matters

IV. OLD BUSINESS

V. NEW BUSINESS

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

VII. MISCELLANEOUS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

*It is anticipated that the following matters will be discussed under Executive Session in its entirety.

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body.

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ **Alvaro A. Santos**
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Pacific

New taxation rules in Tonga: The poor pay less, rich more

NUKUALOFA, Tonga (Matangi Tonga/PIR)—The Tonga Cabinet yesterday passed new regulations for the new Income Tax Act, as well as introducing new Customs duty rates and regulations, and Excise duty rates and regulations. They were all gazetted yesterday, the Prime Minister Dr Feleti Sevele said yesterday afternoon.

These are major components of the economic reform that was launched in 2002 and the Prime Minister said that under the new Income Tax Act people in the lower income brackets would not have to pay tax.

"The tax free income for the lower income people used to be $2,500, non taxable. Now the minimum is $7,400 a year. So a lot of people will not have to pay any tax.

"The higher incomes will pay more, those above $30,000 per annum will pay 20 percent whereas it is currently 10 percent. So it is a more graduated fairer tax system," he said.

"On duties, we now have excise duty paid on the cc capacity of a vehicle. Before we had 45 percent duty on overseas invoice, now it is based on the liter capacity of a vehicle. In that way people will pay less and it will also encourage people to buy newer vehicles.

"That is the way to go, less cheating, better compliance, and people will be paying the right duty."

The Prime Minister said there would be no duty "on fuel for domestic airlines."

Samoa gets Aussie climate change grant

APIA, Samoa (Samoa Observer/PIR)—Australia will provide $800,000 over the next two years to support community activities to address the impact of climate change in Samoa.

Through AusAID's regional Vulnerability and Adaptation initiative, more than $4 million has been allocated to support community adaptation activities in Samoa, Fiji, Vanuatu, Tonga and the Solomon Islands.

The $800,000 funding grant for Samoa will be channelled through the United Nations Development Program's (UNDP) Global Environment Facility Small Grants Program.

Speaking at the signing ceremony with the UNDP's Resident Representatives in Samoa, Naheed Haque, Australian High Commissioner to Samoa, Matt Anderson said the initiative will use the existing UNDP/GEF small grants scheme to allocate funding support to groups.

"The AusAID grant will contribute to the UNDP/GEF community- based adaptation program, with a focus on projects that deal with reducing the climate change impact on ecosystems and livelihoods," Anderson said.

Fiji to cut govt workforce by 10 pct

SUVA, Fiji (Fijilive/PIR)—The Fiji government expects to save close to FJ$66 million [US$42.9 million] this year with its planned 10 percent reduction of the civil service cost, says Public Service Commission permanent secretary Taina Tagicakibau.

Tagicakibau confirms the PSC is currently offering redundancy packages to civil servants who will leave their jobs voluntarily.

"We have designed a redundancy package that is going to offer the outgoing civil servants up to 6 months of pay and this will apply to everyone across the board," she told fijilive.com. "This will not only save us a lot of money but also ensure efficiency in all government departments."

Apart from the voluntary redundancy, PSC has also imposed a freeze on new post creation and vacancies as they exist on 26th October 2007.

The Government wants to direct money saved in operational costs towards capital investments that directly contribute to the national development programs.

Tagicakabau says an audit of the civil service last year revealed that the staff establishment stood at 28,063 of which 22,262 comprised of the established staff, whilst the unestablished staff made up the balance of 5,081.

She said the salary/wage bill of $569.9million [US$370.6 million] for the civil service last year represents 59 per cent of the total operating budget of Government.

New 'faipule' elected in Tokelau

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—Tokelau's election results for the faipule or village leaders of the three atolls have seen a new faipule elected in Fakaofo.

Elections were held over the weekend to also elect village mayors and delegate members for Tokelau's General Fono [legislature].

[PIR editor's note: "Faipule" are village leaders, who make up half of the cabinet in Tokelau's government. The other three cabinet members are "pulenuku," or village mayors.]

Foua Toloa is the new faipule for Fakaofo atoll and takes over from Kolouei O'Brien.

Kuresa Nasau has been re-elected in as the faipule for Atafu for another term.

And the ulu, or head of government for Tokelau for 2008, is Pio Tuia, who last held this role in 2005 and who was also re-elected as the faipule for Nukunonu.

New village mayors or pulenuku are Tinielu Tumuli in Fakaofo, Lino Isaia in Nukunonu, and Nouata Tufoua in Atafu.

Tokelau's incoming head of government for 2008 says the priority for this year is to meet New Zealand government officials.

Pio Tuia was elected as the local leader of Nukunonu atoll, and will be sworn in next month as the ulu or head of government for this year.

He says New Zealand's relationship is key and Tokelau leaders are well aware the New Zealand government could change this year.

"I think we need to revisit our relationship with New Zealand as we're still looking at New Zealand to be the administration for Tokelau so our relationship is very important and very crucial at the moment because I think New Zealand's is going to have a new election this year.

PACIFIC BRIEFS

American Samoa governor on mend in Hawaii hospital

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—Doctors at Hawaii's Tripler Army Medical Centre say that the condition of American Samoa Governor Togiola has improved since he was admitted to hospital on Wednesday evening. The Director of the Governor's Office in Hawaii, Solialii Faalepo Jr. said from Honolulu this morning that the governor was alert and in a much better condition. Solialii said doctors are still doing tests and at this stage it's not known whether the governor will undergo a third surgery.

Tonga sends 55 soldiers to Iraq

NUKUALOFA, Tonga (Tonga Broadcasting Commission/PIR)—Parents and wives of members of the Third Tongan contingent to Iraq bid goodbye to their boys at Fua'amotu airport last Saturday. Fighting back tears, many parents and wives said they support the seven-month mission and goals of the soldiers in Iraq. Platoon leader Lieutenant Lepa Veikune says the 55 peacekeeping personnel's mission would be a great help in co-operating with foreign countries. Veikune says every personnel has been is insured. The third contingent is expected to complete their assignment and return to Tonga in August.

Pago bill would remove *matai* requirement

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—A bill removing one of the existing criteria for determining successors to a matai title, has been reintroduced in the American Samoa Senate. Hereditary right is the main qualification for settling matai title disputes filed in the High Court. But under Senate President Lolo M. Moliga's bill, this requirement would be removedThis would leave the three remaining criteria: the wish of the majority or plurality of family members; the forcefulness, character and personality of the persons under consideration for the title, and their knowledge of Samoan customs; and the value of the holder of the title to the family, village and country. Lolo first introduced the bill last July but no action was taken.

Italy to pledge $11M to Pacific development

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—The Italian Government has pledged to convene an Italy-Pacific Islands Forum towards the end of 2008. The Italian Ambassador to Solomon Islands, Stefano Starace Janfolla, says the initiative is part of the ongoing interest of the Italian government in deepening bilateral relations with Pacific Island countries. Starace said the Italy-Pacific summit would not only focus on political issues, but also on economic development and trade. Starace, who is based in Canberra, says his government's acceptance into the Post Forum Dialogue represents a significant stepping stone in increasing Italy's commitment to development and peace in the region. He says his government will commit more than US$11 million to development in the Pacific over the next three years

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

January 22, 2001

Filipinos celebrate Erap's ouster

It was initially intended to be a protest march in support of hundreds and thousands of their kababayans who trooped to the historic EDSA in suburb Mandaluyong City in the Philippines to call for the resignation of President Joseph Estrada. But the Filipino community on Saipan ended up holding a prayer rally in celebration of the ouster of Estrada from the Philippine presidency only after a little over two years since he assumed the position following a landslide victory in 1998.

Mandarin may pull out of Saipan

Mandarin Air is studying the possibility of pulling out of Saipan due to heavy losses as a result of low passenger load but officials said they are still looking at two more options to save the airline's operations on the island. Tinian Dynasty Hotel manager Tom Liu said travel agents from Taiwan have decided they will no longer handle 100 charter seats for both the Monday and Friday flights because of low passenger load.

INS: Chinese without US visa can't transit in Guam

The Marianas Visitors Authority may just have to say goodbye to the CNMI's plan to entice visitors from the People's Republic of China. This, as the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service declared that PROC nationals who do not have US visa will not be allowed to transit in any U.S. port starting Feb. 5, 2001.

January 22, 2002

Projected revenue down by $35.6M

In July 2001, former Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio submitted a $229-million budget for Fiscal Year 2002. In October that same year, he submitted a reduced budget of $206 million. Today, the new administration projected revenues at only $193.37 million. Yet despite such a huge drop, the Babauta administration is keeping its fingers crossed that the projections would still go up, with the expected revenue collections coming from the Business Gross Revenue Tax, amusement tax and other government levies that are due this January.

US firm plans to operate floating hotel on Saipan

In line with the Babauta Administration's target to bring in one million tourists annually, an Ohio-based company is planning to operate a floating hotel on Saipan that would include new tourist amenities other than suites and restaurants. The Sea Hotel Corporation wants to permanently dock a huge yacht at the bay near the fishing base in Garapan, which would be operated as a hotel. Aside from this, the company also plans to erect suites on an estimated 4-hectare coastal land. The structure would be connected to the yacht.

Tourists come in trickles

Visitor arrivals to the Northern Marianas dropped 31.24 percent in December 2001 to 30,851 from 44,870 visitors during the same month last year, official government figures disclosed. The Marianas Visitors Authority also reported that tourist arrivals to the Northern Marianas during the January-December 2001 period dropped by 16.29 percent, from 528,597 in 2000 to 442,466 last year.

January 22, 2003

Heinz: Pay cuts must affect everyone

In implementing government pay cuts, House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider believes that the reduction must affect everybody or none at all. "With all due respect to the Governor's proposal on the 30-minute voluntary workhour reduction, I differ in approach," said Hofschneider, insisting on his one-hour daily work reduction plan, which the House had defeated.

More federal screeners deployed

The Transportation Security Administration completed its federalization of the Saipan International Airport as check-in counters now use federal screeners, in full compliance with inspection policies implemented across the United States. Commonwealth Ports Authority Executive Director Carlos H. Salas yesterday disclosed that 35 federal screeners from Utah are now on Saipan to train local screeners who will man inspection of all baggage at the airline check-in counter of the Saipan airport.

Island Snapshots

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

INAUGURAL MASS

Bishop Tomas A. Camacho delivers the homily during the Inaugural Mass of the 16th Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature and the 10th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa on Jan. 12, 2008.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Senate President Pete P. Reyes with wife Glenna SP Reyes, deputy director of the Legislative Bureau, and daughter Isa after the Inaugural Mass for the 16th Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa on Jan. 12, 2008.

Members of the 16th CNMI Senate with Bishop Tomas A. Camacho.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Members of the 16th CNMI House of Representatives with Bishop Tomas A. Camacho.

SAEF CLEANUP

Students and teachers from the newly established Saipan American Education Foundation School clean up a rarely used beach on Lao Lao Bay Friday, Jan. 18, 2008. The school, led by principal Dr. E. Roland Brown, said they have named the beach Adventure Beach "because the hike to get there was an adventure." This series of three pictures shows the beach before the cleanup, the students and faculty as they work, and a souvenir picture after the cleanup.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

ZYNERGY ROCKS CLUB V

Hundred of Saipan's party people hit the dance floor with the hip music of Club V's newest band Zynergy during Saturday night's Back2Back concert with Switchgroove at the Saipan Grand Hotel.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

A forgotten crisis

Was it only four months ago that the world was pledging to stand by the brave thousands who were marching peacefully for democracy in Myanmar? Was it so recently that the United Nations Security Council was proclaiming its readiness to promote reconciliation after those same thousands were swept off the streets and into prisons or unmarked graves?

As the U.N. effort sputtered to a complete stall last week, it was impossible not to wonder whether those brave pledges were anything but a summer dream. While the movement of Buddhist monks and hundreds of thousands of sympathizers held the world's attention, the odious regime in Myanmar, also known as Burma, a Southeast Asian nation of 50 million people, promised to engage in dialogue with Aung San Suu Kyi, the democracy leader living under house arrest and in near total isolation. It promised, too, to permit U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to send his special envoy, Ibrahim Gambari, any time he wanted. But no dialogue has taken place, and the regime won't give Gambari a visa until April, if then. And the Security Council's response to this extraordinary insult to its mandate and prestige? Last week, it mustered, not without controversy, a statement of "regret" at the "slow pace of progress."

Progress? Here's what's happened since Ban put his, and the United Nations', prestige on the line. More monks have been arrested. The death toll from the fall has yet to be made known. The regime raised the fee for satellite dish licenses from $5 per year to $800, or three times the average annual salary, so that its people—already impoverished by economic mismanagement and corruption—will be further cut off from the world. And meanwhile, Gambari flies from Asian capital to Asian capital, hoping that someone will put in a good word for his visa.

Bush administration officials are pushing China, India and the Europeans to pressure the Myanmarese, but without much luck. China didn't even want Gambari to brief the Security Council. Japan, ever attuned to its commercial interests in Myanmar, recently resumed aid. South Africa, which has emerged under President Thabo Mbeki as a leading opponent of human rights in other countries, has sought to stymie U.N. involvement. There are options beyond pleading: arms embargoes, stricter banking sanctions aimed at the junta members and their relatives, and more. Whether they come into play depends on whether the secretary general and and leaders of nations that claim to respect the United Nations object even a little to its humiliation by a band of Myanmarese bullies.

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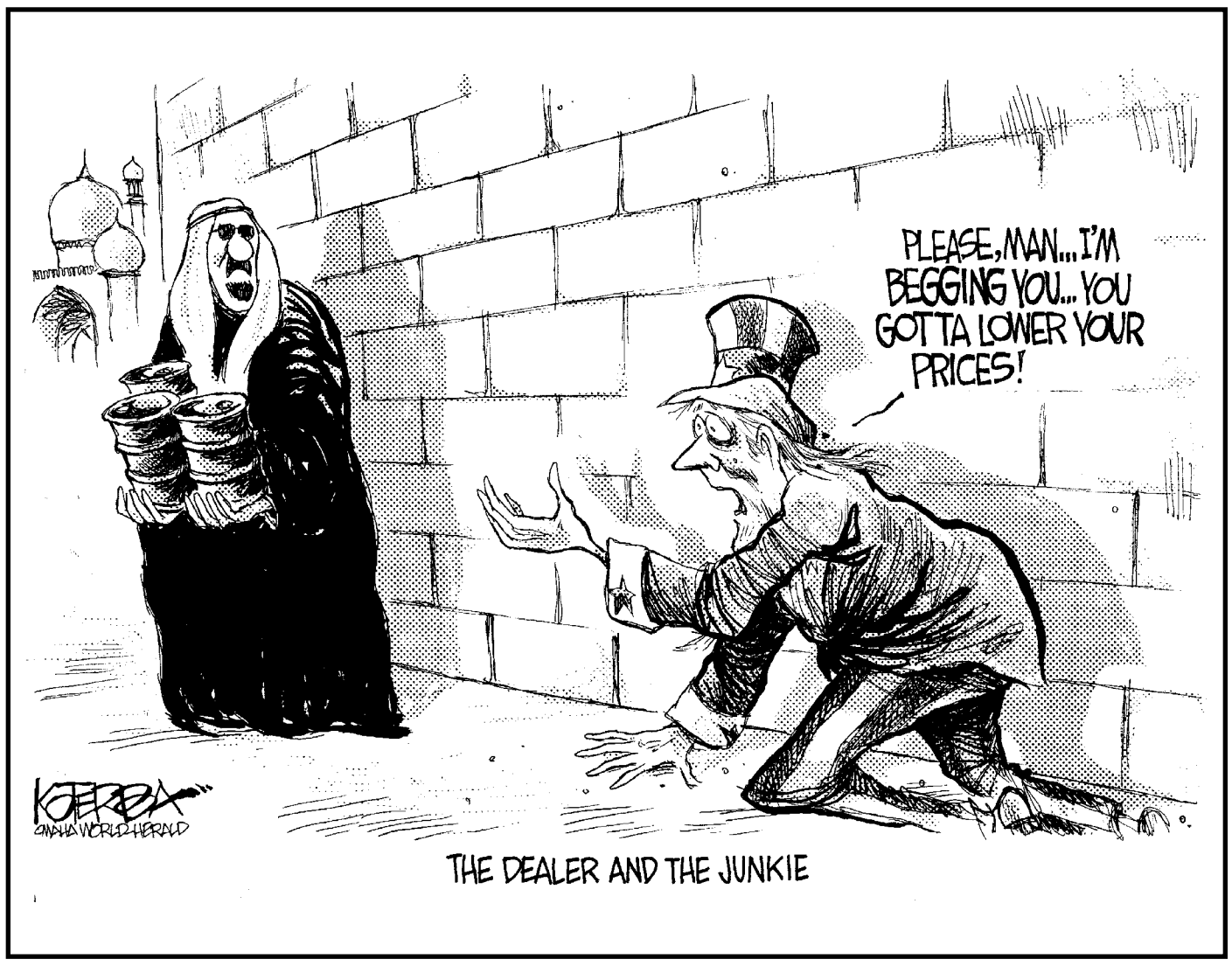

THE DEALER AND THE JUNKIE

Ban black cats?

In defense of fireworks

Another freedom disappears under the rock of oppressive nanny government intervention. This time we citizens are found incapable of celebrating Christmas, New Year's and the Liberation Day as we might wish to. Laws have been passed to stop the sale and personal enjoyment of fireworks by CNMI citizens.

Each year around Christmas a small but vocal group trundles out the timeworn complaints of possible injury and noise pollution. You are far more likely to be "possibly injured" crossing the street. Should we outlaw it, or worse, mandate that a government crossing guard accompany you each time to assure your safety? Should you be allowed to play a Wagnerian opera at anything above 25 decibels without a court decree?

Instead of some simple rules to enforce courteous use and a safety course to teach proper handling methods, our knee jerk reaction is to legislate fireworks displays as a permitted, government-only exercise. I can see it now. A Department of Artistic Fireworks and Fanciful Yodeling (DAFFY) with 200 employees and a several million dollar budget. One need only fill out these 62 pages of request forms, have each duly stamped with a notary seal, stop by six different offices and voila, within two or three years of processing a dandy fireworks display will be forthcoming at your 40th birthday party. So sorry, Christmas will have to be celebrated on March 14th next year as the backlog of processing requests won't be finished by Dec. 25th. Not to worry, it's for your own good. Stand by for instructions on how you must cook your morning breakfast, coming soon from your friendly protectors up on the Hill.

■ ■ ■

A Donut Tree

Thanks to online blogging articles and comments made recently, I went out and enjoyed one thing I never knew existed and revisited another I had not been to in a long time.

I must have driven past the Galaxy donut shop dozens, maybe hundreds, of times and never even noticed it was there. Not having a sign does not help their marketing effort or their visibility. Delores, the proprietress didn't seem to care much one way or the other. Having been in the same location since NMC was a hospital instead of a college (1978), most folks know where she is and what she serves. The donuts are what are called "sinkers" in the US, a heavy cake-like donut with iced glazing. I liked the simple fare and the homey, comfortable feel of the place. I'll be going back for some more donuts and another sack of that cooked Pork. Look to the right as you drive from the traffic light to the main parking lot at the College and you will see the nondescript white building above you on the rise. This is not the place to go if you want Internet wifi and a six-dollar cup of burnt bean bitter yuppie coffee. This is the place to go if you want a good donut, a good cup of coffee, nice company and a screened porch all at a very reasonable price.

My three-year-old son and I visited the Botanical Gardens the other day. It was his first visit and my first in a year or two. We tromped around the paths, climbed up into the tree houses, scrambled up the stairs to the overlook and swung in the hammocks spending several very enjoyable hours there. We drank fresh guava juice at the snack bar and pored over the historic Japanese era pictures and piggy banks made from coconuts in the museum/gift shop. Alexander tested each tire swing for safety and efficacy and found they all passed his stringent examination. This is one of the really nice tourist venues on Saipan and one those of us who live here are fortunate to have at our disposal any time we need a quiet stroll down a garden path to sooth a bothersome day or a bad mood. The descriptive signage is woefully dilapidated, making plant identification difficult but the park is well maintained otherwise. This is a joyful way to spend a day of your life. The local-rate entrance fee is minimal, so go on out and give it another try. I bet you haven't been there in a long time either.

■ ■ ■

Fold flap A into slot B

I'll admit right off that, as a first time parent, there may be some room for improvement in my technique. I noticed immediately there was no operator's manual attached by little ball chain anywhere near Olivia's enlarging belly when she was pregnant so I decided I had better hit the library, the bookstore and Amazon to find out how to deal with the Salamander, as I called him then. (The ultrasound gave me little hope that he would turn out to be another Homo sapien).

I got about a dozen books expecting to use the best of each and also expecting there to be broad consensus on the most important items of child rearing expertise. Was I ever shocked to discover that just about every book had a different viewpoint and offered wildly different advice on how best to deal with the little buggers once out of the chute.

If there is definitive proof of a superior method, I have yet to run

See BAN on next page

SOUR GRAPES

By BRUCE BATEMAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Bruce A. Bateman writes Sour Grapes when the moon is full and the mood strikes. Stay tuned for each exciting episode. "Yes, he is opinionated." Email: bbateman@pticom.com; Blog: http://saipanuvian.blogspot.com/

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'PL 15-108 is progress. Progress is incremental.'

NOTES FROM THE HILL

By MARIA FRICA T. PANGELINAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Maria Frica Pangelinan is a senator in the 16th Legislature.

These are the thoughts that evolved out of my research on Public Law 15-108 and ultimately motivated my support of its enactment. I felt it important to share with you as I believe that information is an essential component of constructive progress.

The dynamics of our labor market affect many, not just people in the Commonwealth. The families of citizens, permanent residents and foreign nationals who live on the U.S. mainland and in home countries are influenced as well.

The original labor laws were created on the premise that certain foreign nationals would fill jobs that could not be filled by our resident population. There were two reasons. First, we felt that our small population would not be able to provide a large enough labor pool to fully supply the needs of the industries we were trying to attract. Second, we needed time to prepare ourselves with education, training, and experience, for full participation in the workforce. After 30-plus years, we are more than ready. Even so, we have been slow to acknowledge and address the "brain drain" of citizens leaving our islands. Our investment in the secondary and postsecondary education of ourselves and our young people is being lost as they migrate out of the Commonwealth. Some of our college graduates never even return from the mainland, simply entering the workforce there. We are about a half a generation behind in coordinating the provisions of our labor laws with these realities.

The authors of the bill took on a huge task. Not only were the old laws and regulations complex, they were flawed and fragmented. The original purpose of the Nonresident Worker Act had been lost in a morass of piecemeal amendments. There were loopholes and weaknesses that allowed abuses, not just by employers, but by employees as well. It was a thankless job, not likely to please everyone, and fraught with political and social risk. Nonetheless, led by Rep. Cinta Kiapat, they took on the task of reforming the entire Act, something that no legislators before had been willing to tackle. For this, they have my respect. They did their jobs.

The new law and the accompanying regulations are still complex. Laws that deal with the movement and employment of people across international borders deal with complex issues. That being said, the new law is more streamlined and organized than the old.

PL 15-108 does not address every issue I would have liked. The exit provision makes no allowance for foreign nationals who have lived and worked in the Commonwealth for many years, some with children who are U.S. citizens. Some have no home or family to return to in their home countries during the newly required exit period. Although the regulations provide an alternative exit period of 60 days for some foreign nationals employed by qualifying employers, I do not yet see a clear solution for this issue and it needs to be addressed.

I would also like to revisit the new medical insurance provision. CHC struggles under the burden of being owed millions of dollars for services rendered. This is not a problem created solely by nonpayment of medical services for foreign nationals. There are others in the Commonwealth who do not have medical insurance. I would like to explore the possibility of expanding the role of the newly created insurance pool. Perhaps by eliminating self-insurance we could build a larger insurance pool, insuring CHC gets paid more often, an additional benefit for the entire Commonwealth. I am continuing to study this issue.

There is also the issue of foreign nationals who enter the Commonwealth under tourist visas and intend to work. Some of them know they are breaking the law, some do not. The screening procedure used by our Immigration officers at the point of entry should take this into account. At this point I do not know if the current procedures effectively identify these persons, or how the situation is handled. I plan to explore this with the Director of Immigration.

Over the years there has been an accumulation of claims, and court cases pointing to loopholes and weaknesses of the old law. Most people, businesses, and government employees, are honest, hardworking, and law abiding. However, some employers and employees have taken advantage of loopholes, or chosen to break or circumvent the law. Next are the hard lessons we have learned while administering the local labor and immigration laws. People have been taken advantage of and lives have fallen through the cracks. There were as many as 20,000 foreign nationals employed in the Commonwealth in 2007 and the number of tourists was almost 400,000. Only a small number of human trafficking cases occurred during that period. The fact remains, however, that each case is a tragedy for the victim and their families. Every loophole we close is progress toward ending this horrendous practice.

'Does PL 15-108 solve all of our labor problems? No. There are larger economic factors, some global, that no law can fix. Our labor market is smaller than in the past and there will be fewer foreign nationals in the Commonwealth, but those that are will enjoy an improved quality of life because of PL 15-108.'

The authors of PL15-108 took these issues and more, into account, integrating input from the Attorney General's Office, the Department of Labor, the business community, private citizens, and many others.

This table is an overview of labor and related issues in the Commonwealth.

LABOR PROBLEM	SOLUTIONS
A government with too many employees	Reduce the number of public employees
Government revenues are shrinking	Reduce expenses (payroll), raise revenues
Average wages are higher in the public sector	Equalize wages in the private and public sector
Relatively high unemployment among residents	Increase local employment in the private sector
Highly skilled and educated citizens living on the mainland	Increase employment opportunities in the private sector
Residents have problems finding private sector jobs	Improve the system of identifying and matching qualified residents with private sector employment opportunities
Poor working and living conditions of some foreign nationals	Improve the inspection and enforcement power of DOL
Human trafficking	Close loopholes in the foreign national labor laws
Lack of health benefits for foreign nationals who are not workers	Mandatory health benefits
Abandoned and unpaid foreign nationals	Improved bonding/increased enforcement by DOL
CHC has difficulty getting paid for services provided	Mandatory medical insurance; disqualifying employers who do not pay medical bills for their foreign workers

PL 15-108 creates rewards for employers that exceed statutory standards and increases the severity of penalties for those, including government employees, who do not uphold the law. The new law is said by some to increase the administrative burden on local businesses. Yes, it does. Hiring a new foreign national is now a special and final option for an employer, and only when it is a documented certainty that no citizen, permanent resident, or foreign national already in the Commonwealth is willing and able to fill the position. This is the same premise on which the Federal guest worker programs are based; to augment the resident workforce, not displace it.

Our entire labor market is shrinking. Payroll is usually the largest expense of a business. The private sector has always adjusted to the economy, increasing and decreasing the number of employees based on demand.

Now, whether by design or by necessity, public sector employment is decreasing also. Payroll is the largest expense of the government as well. Reducing the number of employees while controlling the wages of those who remain must be part of the government's path to solvency. Some who leave the government will retire, some will go off island for employment, and some will depend on social services and family for a means of support. However, many will be searching for private sector employment. We must now work even harder to connect our resident work force with the available jobs.

Part of the solution is to improve the process by which we identify and target career opportunities in the private sector for citizens and residents of the CNMI. The faulty stereotype of all private sector jobs offering only minimum wage is challenged by a study recently completed by the Office of the Public Auditor. During a twelve month period ending August 2006, over 800 nonresident permits were issued for positions that pay over $10 per hour. Many of these positions require the same skills and experience as public sector jobs. It has been reported that some of these positions are protected by a treaty provision and are not available to citizens and permanent residents. I will work with the OPA to verify these reports.

The report is available at: http://www.opacnmi.com/reports/053007%20Jobs%20Study%20Committee%20Final%20Report.pdf

High unemployment among our residents as well as losing them to mainland life is unreasonable in light of the findings of the OPA's job study. Actively recruiting qualified residents for positions should be a priority for private sector businesses.

Employers certainly recognize that by hiring citizens and permanent residents, they are keeping money circulating in the economy that would otherwise be lost to foreign countries in the form of remittances. Keeping these dollars in the Commonwealth takes advantage of the multiplier effect in our economy and this benefits everyone.

Change always causes angst and uncertainty. Some say that PL 15-108 is pointless, as it is soon to be overridden by federal immigration statutes. I respectfully disagree. We have identified problems with our labor laws. We legislators have a duty to correct them. "If "federalization" comes, in its current form, it will not become effective for a year after the bill is signed into law. At a minimum, we have a year during which we continue to be directly accountable for how we deal with identified problems. As our great American hero, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said: "The time is always right to do the right thing".

Does PL 15-108 solve all of our labor problems? No. There are larger economic factors, some global, that no law can fix. Our labor market is smaller than in the past and there will be fewer foreign nationals in the Commonwealth, but those that are will enjoy an improved quality of life because of PL 15-108.

PL 15-108 is progress. Progress is incremental. I will continue to monitor the implementation, and work to address the issues I have identified, as well as others that may arise.

BAN

From Page 10

across it so I use some of the suggestions I learned from the how to manuals, especially the first aid stuff and just wing it for the most part on those items I don't really know the proper method of dealing with.

The best laid plans, however, are sometimes difficult to actually put into action as he runs over your foot with the electric ATV on his way to stand on the handlebars, open the drawer, climb up, causing the cabinet to overturn smashing the laptop you are doing your research on. A hearty DAMN IT seems to pop out of my mouth, apparently from nowhere when a series of 8 or 10 experiences like those described above all happen in the space of 10 minutes. So much for vocabulary building lesson 202. It can be a bit frustrating.

This child rearing is not child's play; this is serious stuff. Mine is three now, and I can only imagine what surprises await me as he gains acumen with that opposable thumb and learns to research winning sales techniques, the better to slam dunk me with at the checkout counter.

Making babies is simple: unskilled labor, happy at their work. What to do with them afterwards is certainly a more complex endeavor. If you have any suggestions or a reading list, feel free to email them to me. Help is needed before the men with the nets come for me.

■ ■ ■

Quotes of the week: There comes a time in every rightly constructed boy's life when he has a raging desire to go somewhere and dig for hidden treasure.

—Mark Twain (1835 – 1910)

The voice of parents is the voice of gods, for to their children they are heaven's lieutenants.

—William Shakespeare (1564 1616)

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.
▲80° ▼75°	▲81° ▼75°	▲81° ▼74°	▲79° ▼73°	▲79° ▼73°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼74
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
Yap	Partly Sunny	▲88	▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	▲90	▼80
Pohnpei	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼77
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼75
Majuro	Partly Sunny	▲85	▼76

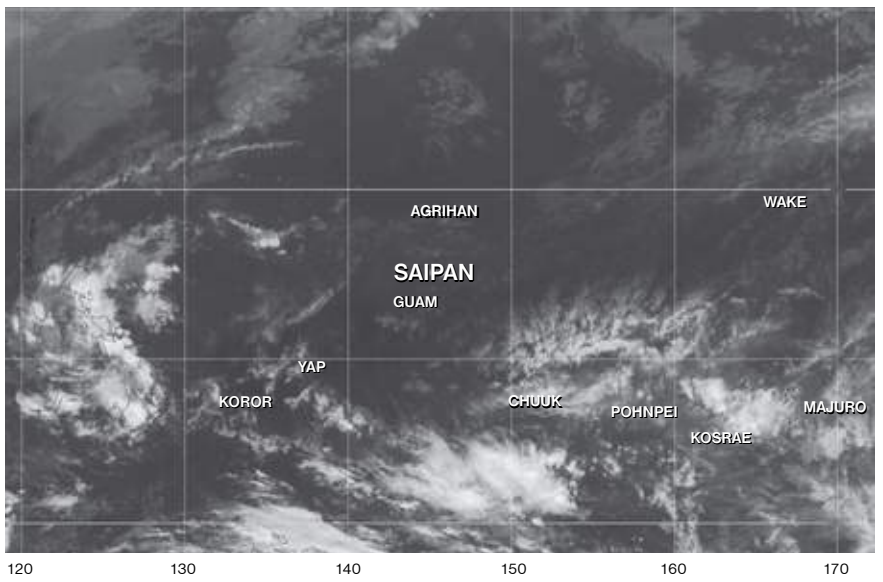
Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲76	▼66
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲32	▼10
Hong Kong	Partly Sunny	▲72	▼66
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲76	▼70
London	Cloudy	▲47	▼47
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲60	▼45
Manila	Showers	▲84	▼73
Melbourne	Sunny	▲74	▼58
Miami	Showers	▲80	▼66
New York	Rain/Snow	▲39	▼28
Osaka	Showers	▲50	▼41
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲46	▼43
Pusan	Rain	▲47	▼30
Rome	Showers	▲55	▼34
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲37	▼23
San Francisco	Rain	▲53	▼42
Seoul	Snow	▲41	▼25
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲42	▼36
Washington, DC	Showers	▲44	▼28

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
01:22AM Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
08:40AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
01:49PM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
06:35PM Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, JAN. 21, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front enter the discussion area near 23N180 and stretches southwestward to 21N170E. It then continues as a shear line and extends to 17N155E to 17N140E and turns northwestward to 19N130E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 300 miles north of this frontal boundary east of 150E and up to 150 miles west of 150E. A near-equatorial trough stretches from 1N130E to 4N145E to EQ155E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the trough can be found south of Chuuk between the equator and 5N from 145E to 155E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers to the east of Kosrae 90 miles either side of a line that stretches from 9N160E to 4N171E. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers north of Majuro between 10N and 14N from 170E to 180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47AM	6:10PM
Wednesday	6:47AM	6:10PM
Thursday	6:47AM	6:11PM
Friday	6:47AM	6:11PM
Saturday	6:47AM	6:12PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	05:52PM	06:19AM
Wednesday	06:53PM	07:10AM
Thursday	07:49PM	07:56AM
Friday	08:42PM	08:36AM
Saturday	09:32PM	09:13AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	1,2,4,5,6,7
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	2,3,4,5,6,7

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	4:00am	7:35am	1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Manila

CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:30am	11:10am	Daily

Guam-Nagoya

CO 971	7:45am	10:30am	1,2,4,5,6,7
NW 023	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily
CO 904	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 078	8:30am	1:30pm	Daily via Nagoya
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily

Guam-Narita

JO 982	4:15am	7:00am	Daily
CO 961	7:20am	9:55am	Daily
CO 006	1:00pm	3:45pm	Daily
JO 942	3:30pm	6:15pm	Daily
NW 081	3:55pm	6:50pm	Daily
NW 073	4:15pm	7:00pm	Daily
CO 963	4:50pm	7:30pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily

Guam-Hongkong

CO 910	7:45pm	10:40pm	1,5

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Saipan-Shanghai

MU 590	4:20am	7:00am	2,6

ARRIVALS

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,4,5,6,7
CO 9316	3:30am	4:20am	2
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	2,3,4,5,6,7

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	10:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
OZ 607	6:50pm	2:50am+1	3,7 via Busan
OZ 607	7:30pm	2:50am+1	4 via Busan

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7

Manila-Guam

CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	5:25am+1	3 via Koror
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:15pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Manila-Saipan

CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily

Nagoya-Guam

NW 024	10:00am	2:40pm	Daily
CO 970	11:30am	4:00pm	Daily
CO 905	8:25pm	12:50am+1	1,3,4,5,6,7

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:35am	3:05pm	Daily
NW 077	6:15pm	1:10am+1	Daily via Nagoya

Narita-Guam

JO 941	9:30am	2:05pm	Daily
NW 074	9:45am	2:25pm	Daily
CO 962	11:05am	3:35pm	Daily
CO 007	5:15pm	9:50pm	Daily
NW 082	8:30pm	1:15am+1	Daily
CO 964	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
JO 981	9:30pm	2:05am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:40am	3:10pm	Daily

Hongkong-Guam

CO 910	11:40pm	6:20am+1	1,5

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

Shanghai-Saipan

MU 589	8:05am	3:00am+1	1,5

(Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana. ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

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  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
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  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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Business

Mexican housing booms despite US crisis

MEXICO CITY (AP)—In her bustling corner real estate brokerage, Ana Laura Pulido is doing her best business in years, enjoying a sort of Mexican immunity from the U.S. housing crash.

"It's a time of hope," said Pulido, who has sold hundreds of homes to middle-income families since 1992. "The buyer today is more aware. People buy with more ease, they can plan long-term."

Long thrashed by swings in the U.S. economy, Mexico now boasts a thriving housing sector whose record growth leads Latin America - a sign of increased economic stability and an outlet for investors looking to escape the U.S. downturn.

Giants including the California Public Employees Retirement System, the largest U.S. public pension fund, are already bankrolling projects in Mexico, where they see "more bang for the buck," said Clark McKinley, spokesman for CalPERS, which has invested more than $300 million in Mexican real estate funds.

The trend could even slow emigration from Mexico, by generating millions in jobs and personal savings as a fresh supply of loans gives many their first chance to own a house.

President Felipe Calderon has set a national goal of a million new mortgages a year by 2010. On Monday, he unveils a set of measures to ensure growth continues, with plans to boost Mexico's small resale market and combat the urban sprawl that has begun to carpet valleys with hundreds of thousands of matchbox rowhomes.

Behind the boom are six years of economic growth and stability, and a national shortage of 6 million dwellings. While interest rates are falling, just 6 percent of Mexico's 25.7 million homes are financed with mortgages - compared to about 67 percent in the U.S. Most Mexicans still inherit their homes, buy them with cash, or build them by hand.

That pent-up mortgage demand in a nation of 108 million means lenders can be choosy, enforcing strict standards that held delinquency rates below 4 percent in third quarter-2007, compared to 5.6 percent in the U.S.

"Mexico is in the early stages of expansion," said Juan P. De Mollein, managing director for Latin American structured finance at Standard & Poor's. "There are still plenty of points for evolution because there's still plenty of demand."

AP

Children play on a street of the newly built La Alvorada housing complex on the outskirts of Mexico City, Thursday Dec. 20, 2007.

LA Times editor fired in dispute

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The *Los Angeles Times* fired its top editor after he rejected a management order to cut $4 million from the newsroom budget, 14 months after his predecessor was also ousted in a budget dispute, the newspaper said Sunday.

James O'Shea was fired following a confrontation with Publisher David D. Hiller, the *Times* reported on its Web site. The story didn't say when the confrontation took place.

Times spokeswoman Nancy Sullivan said the newspaper would have no comment.

O'Shea's departure comes just a month after the *Times'* parent, Chicago-based Tribune Co., was taken private in an $8.2 billion buyout by real estate magnate Sam Zell.

The departure also follows that of his predecessor, Dean Baquet, who was forced to resign after he opposed further cuts to the newsroom budget in 2006.

O'Shea, then the *Chicago Tribune*'s managing editor, was brought in to replace him.

At the time, he asked the news staff not to see him as "the hatchet man from Chicago" and promised to fight to ensure the *Times* would "remain a major force in American journalism."

"If I think there is too much staff I will say so," O'Shea told the paper's editors and reporters in 2006. "And if I think there is not enough I will say that, too."

O'Shea is the third *Times* editor to leave the newspaper since 2005, all of them departing in disputes with management over how much to cut the news budget.

When Editor John Carroll left in 2005 he was replaced by Baquet, who was then the *Times* managing editor. Hiller, former publisher of the *Tribune* who had worked with O'Shea in Chicago, then brought him out to replace Baquet.

Hiller had joined the *Times* in 2006 after former Publisher Jeffrey M. Johnson was ousted for refusing to carry out budget cuts ordered by corporate headquarters in Chicago.

A month later, Hiller dismissed Baquet and brought in O'Shea to replace him.

Before coming to the *Times*, O'Shea had been managing editor of the *Tribune* since February 2001 and had worked at the newspaper in various capacities since 1979.

Wall Street braces for more volatility

NEW YORK (AP)—With Wall Street falling precipitously almost by the day, investors are asking what it will take to revive it. Market experts are increasingly coming to the same answer: Time.

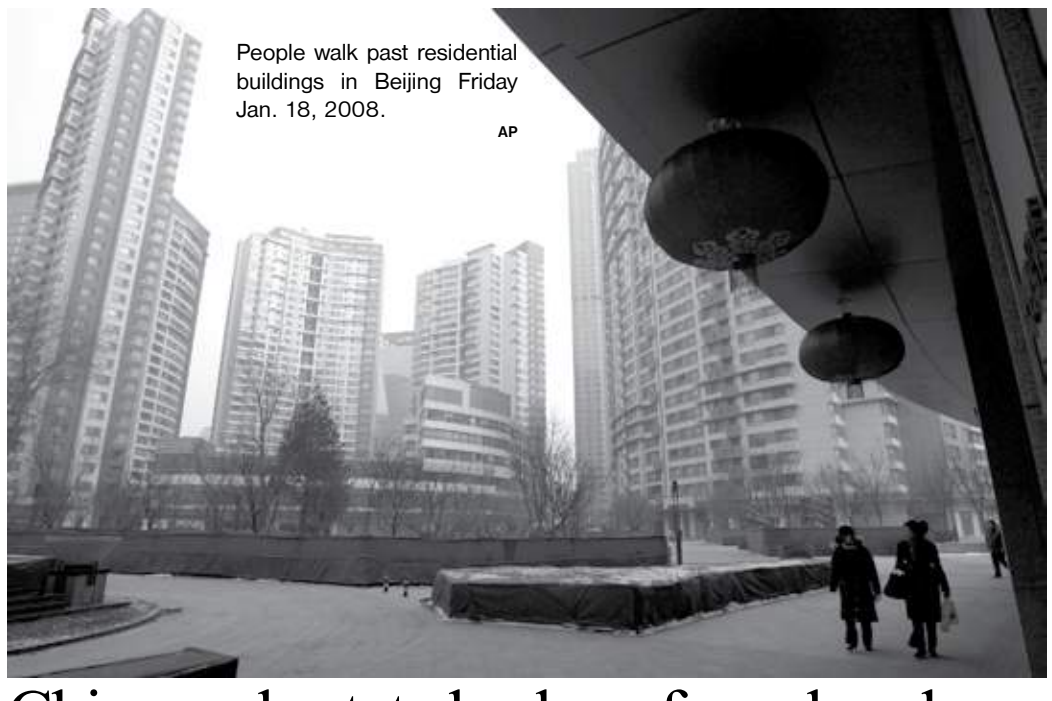
There is no piece of economic data, no corporate earnings report, no move by the Federal Reserve and no government tax plan that will be able to soothe the market's anxiety in the next couple weeks over the weakening economy.

The Dow sank 4.02 percent last week, the Standard & Poor's 500 index dropped 5.41 percent, and the Nasdaq composite index fell 4.10 percent.

Last week brought exactly what investors feared: a wretched manufacturing reading from the Philadelphia Fed, dismal home construction data from the Commerce Department, a worse-than-expected profit at Intel Corp. and historic losses at Citigroup Inc. and Merrill Lynch & Co.

Even the more profitable banks, such as JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Wells Fargo & Co., said they were bracing for more problems in a wide swath of consumer credit, from home equity loans to auto loans and credit cards.

The Dow is now 14.6 percent below its Oct. 9 record close of 14,164.53, and is less than 100 points away from slipping beneath the 12,000 mark, which it first surpassed in October 2006.



People walk past residential buildings in Beijing Friday Jan. 18, 2008.

AP

Key health issues divide both parties

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Bush administration's health agenda this year will consist largely of fending off Democratic lawmakers until a new president and Congress take charge.

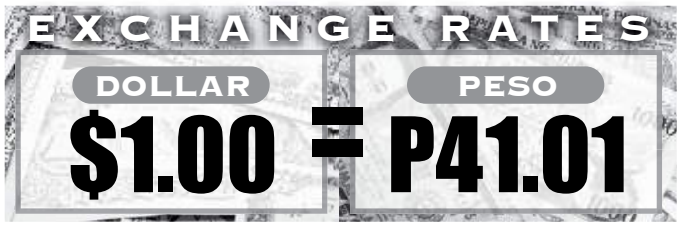
In a preview of what is ahead, Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt says the administration will work to limit the government's role in the delivery of health care. That goal is at odds with several Democratic proposals, such as giving the health chief the power to negotiate drug prices and greatly increasing enrollment in federally sponsored health insurance for children.

Leavitt sees the philosophical divide playing out in numerous ways before the November elections. The year, he predicted, "will be replete with the kind of conflict this town is famous for."

Most policy analysts see little chance for compromise on almost all the major health issues before Congress - a view shared by the top Republican on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which oversees most health issues.

Based on last year's experience in the first year of Democratic control, "I'm not expecting too much cooperation or bipartisanship," Texas Rep. Joe Barton said. "I would assume that all that gets done will be the things that absolutely have to get done."

Democrats will try to keep attention on a proposed expansion of the State Children's Health Insurance Program. The party sees this program as the most practical way to increase coverage to 4 million children, said Democratic Rep. Frank Pallone of New Jersey, who heads the health subcommittee.



China real estate brokers face slowdown

SHANGHAI, China (AP)—After booming in recent years, China's real estate market is finally beginning to feel the pinch from sagging demand and tighter controls.

One of China's biggest real estate agencies, Chuanghui Real Estate, has shuttered dozens of outlets in Shanghai and other cities, leaving behind angry customers and employees, following an ill-timed expansion just as the market was peaking.

Several other agencies around the country also have closed down or scaled back.

So far, the retrenchment appears to be mainly limited to property brokers—the businesses first to feel the pinch when people stop buying new homes, for whatever the reason. But the moves could herald the beginning of a broader slowdown in one of Asia's hottest real estate markets.

The government has been wrestling to get control of the property sector, worried that rising prices for housing are pushing poorer Chinese out of the market at a time when overall inflation is surging. Regulators stepped up curbs on the property market last year, alarmed that "bubbles" in property prices could collapse and trigger a financial crisis.

Nation

GOP presidential race turns to Florida

MIAMI (AP)—The Republican presidential race turned to Florida on Sunday, ever more chaotic and contentious as four candidates began a 10-day sprint to win the state and momentum heading into the de facto national primary next month.

A fifth candidate, Fred Thompson, weighed the future of his bid after a disappointing third-place finish in South Carolina.

With Florida next in the nomination fight, Rudy Giuliani and Mitt Romney wasted no time angling for the upper-hand. They heaped criticism on John McCain, the Arizona senator coming off hard-fought New Hampshire and South Carolina victories, hours before he arrived in Miami.

"John voted against the Bush tax cuts, I think on both occasions, and sided with the Democrats," Giuliani, the former New York mayor, said in a television interview. He has yet to win a contest and has staked his candidacy on a win in Florida on Jan. 29, and was sharpening his criticism of his rivals as the campaign came to him.

At a rally in New Port Richey, Giuliani assailed McCain for never running a government. "When you have that executive experience, you have to make decisions and decisions have consequences. ... Some of my opponents maybe don't have that same fervor and that same understanding," he said.

McCain opposed President Bush's tax cuts in 2001 and 2003 but now says he would support making them permanent because doing otherwise would amount to a tax increase.

Nevertheless, McCain told CNN: "Everybody knows how I was part of the Reagan Revolution where we had tax cuts when, frankly, Mayor Giuliani was supporting a Democrat for governor for the state of New York." Giuliani once broke from his party to endorse Democratic New York Gov. Mario Cuomo.

At a news conference, McCain also chided Giuliani for his 0-6 record, saying: "If someone hasn't run a primary, I can understand why they would attack the front-runner."

Romney, buoyed by wins in Nevada, Michigan and Wyoming, portrayed McCain as a consummate Washington insider and himself, a former one-term Massachusetts governor, as just the outsider able to fix Washington.

"He has been in Washington all of his career. And I don't think you're going to see change in Washington by somebody who's been such a part of it all of these years," Romney said before also assailing McCain's votes against the Bush tax cuts.

A former venture capitalist, Romney also took issue with Giuliani, saying "he's spent his life working in the public sector, in the governmental sector" and, thus, doesn't necessarily understand how the economy works.

And so it began.

AP

Republican Presidential candidate and former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani walks in the Three Kings Parade in the Little Havana section of Miami, Fla, Sunday, Jan. 13, 2008, as he continues to campaign in Florida.

ACROSS THE NATION

Mother: Slain Marine was vulnerable

DAYTON, Ohio (AP)—A slain Marine's image as a woman who struggled with the truth made her vulnerable and may have triggered events that led to her violent death, her mother says. The burned remains of Lance Cpl. Maria Lauterbach, 20, and her fetus were found last weekend in Jacksonville, N.C., one day after a fellow Marine she had accused of raping her, Cpl. Cesar Laurean, disappeared. "My daughter was a beautiful girl with a beautiful figure and perceived credibility issues. That set her up to be the perfect victim," Mary Lauterbach said of her daughter in an interview published Sunday in the Dayton Daily News. Mary Lauterbach said that when an Onslow County, N.C., sheriff's investigator asked for an e-mail telling everything she could about her daughter, "I said she had problems with occasional compulsive lying."

Cops: Man attacked people with chain saw

NEW BLOOMFIELD, Mo. (AP)—A man wielding a chain saw and a knife attacked residents at a homeless shelter where he was staying, leaving two people in critical condition and injuring two others, police said Sunday. Matthew Watkins, 28, was charged with four counts each of first-degree assault and armed criminal action for the attack Saturday at the Mid-America Care Center, the Callaway County sheriff's office said. Sheriff Dennis Crane said two victims were cut by a chain saw and two others by a knife. Authorities said the victims injured by the chain saw were in critical condition, while the other two were treated and released. Watkins had been staying at the shelter for about two weeks and was taking part in a program that provides residents with on-the-job-training, authorities said.

Analysis: Universities overproduce Ph.Ds

College students are getting a raw deal, a recent New York report asserted. The problem is they're taking too many classes from part-time, or adjunct, professors. But that same report unwittingly revealed something about how higher education is more culpable than it likes to admit when it comes to creating the problem. The issue is a huge one in higher education far beyond New York, with about half of the nation's college faculty now on part-time contracts. Adjuncts are cheaper for colleges, but they often lack the time and resources for focused teaching, and research shows students' performance suffers if they are taught by part-timers too often. In its report last month, a 30-member commission called for New York's state (SUNY) and city (CUNY) systems to alleviate the over reliance on adjuncts by hiring 2,000 more full-time faculty for their 87 campuses.

2 killed by gunmen at LA-area parties

LONG BEACH, Calif. (AP)—Groups of gunmen attacked two separate parties during the night in the Los Angeles area, killing two teenagers and wounding at least nine other people, authorities said Sunday. There were no immediate arrests in either shooting, police said. The first shooting happened late Saturday at a Long Beach Masonic temple, where several gang members apparently crashed a birthday party and started a fight, police Sgt. Dina Zapalski said. A 17-year-old boy and a 15-year-old girl died of gunshot wounds, Zapalski said. Another 17-year-old boy suffered injuries that were not life-threatening. Hundreds of partygoers were taken by bus to a nearby elementary school, where police questioned them, Zapalski said.

Obama urges unity; Clinton visits Harlem

ATLANTA (AP)—Barack Obama called Sunday for unity to overcome the country's problems and acknowledged that "none of our hands are clean" when it comes to healing divisions. Hillary Rodham Clinton picked up a Harlem church leader's endorsement.

Heading into the most racially diverse contest yet in the presidential campaign, Obama took to the pulpit at Martin Luther King Jr.'s Ebenezer Baptist Church on the eve of the federal holiday marking the civil rights hero's birth 79 years ago. He based his speech on King's quote that "Unity is the great need of the hour."

"The divisions, the stereotypes, the scapegoating, the ease with which we blame the plight of ourselves on others, all of that distracts us from the common challenges we face: war and poverty; inequality and injustice," Obama said. "We can no longer afford to build ourselves up by tearing each other down. We can no longer afford to traffic in lies or fear or hate. It is the poison that we must purge from our politics; the wall that we must tear down before the hour grows too late."

4 dead as planes collide in Calif.

CORONA, Calif. (AP)—Two private planes flying about a mile from an airport collided Sunday, killing at least four people and raining debris down on car dealerships below, authorities said.

The small Cessnas collided at 3:35 p.m. near the small Corona Municipal airport and a freeway in Riverside County, about 45 miles southeast of Los Angeles, FAA spokesman Allen Kenitzer said.

Three of the dead were from the planes and the fourth was in a car hit by debris on the ground, Kenitzer said.

Debris fell on car dealerships, and television pictures showed that the smashed fuselage of one of the planes landed atop a parked car.

"The smaller aircraft ... just disintegrated into pieces, maybe fifty pieces coming down," eyewitness Jeff Hardin told KABC-TV. "The other aircraft pretty much stayed intact and started spiraling down."

Eyewitness Hector Hernandez said he saw bodies falling from the sky.

"One of them crashed into the top of a Ford Mustang, and another one fell not too far behind that one on the parking lot," Hernandez told KCBS-TV.

Police were going through the dealerships to see if anyone was injured, Corona Police Sgt. Jerry Pawluczenko said.

Body found may be last Ala. bridge child

MOBILE, Ala. (AP)—A body believed to be the last of four children who were allegedly tossed from a coastal Alabama bridge by their father was recovered Sunday, authorities said.

The body of an Asian child was found in the Gulf of Mexico off Louisiana by boaters who contacted Coast Guard officials, who then took the body to Venice, La., Mobile County Sheriff Sam Cochran said.

Authorities in Alabama will not be able to confirm whether the body is that of Hannah Luong, 2, until they get it back, Cochran said. But they ended the search of Alabama and Mississippi coastal waters based on the body's recovery.

"We believe - and hopefully - this will be the body of 2-year-old Hannah and that we'll able to bring closure to the family in this stage," Cochran said.

Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Cheri Ben-Iesau in New Orleans said the crew of the Crystal Lynn first spotted the body and contacted the Coast Guard, which was unable to find it during an aerial sweep of the waters.

A second boat saw it, leading to the recovery about 5.5 miles east of the mouth of the Mississippi River, she said. The Coast Guard said the body was found about 100 miles from the coastal Alabama bridge.

Asia

11 Afghans killed by militants; bombing

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A roadside bomb probably intended for Afghan or NATO forces killed five civilians in southern Afghanistan, while militants killed six Afghans driving a convoy of trucks to a NATO base, officials said Sunday.

The bomb hit a taxi late Saturday in the Panjwayi district of Kandahar province, the site of heavy battles between NATO troops and Taliban fighters over the last 18 months.

Five civilians were killed and three wounded, said Shah Baran, the local government leader.

"Usually the Taliban are planting mines for Afghan and NATO forces, but this time it exploded on civilians," Baran said.

In neighboring Helmand province, militants attacked a convoy of trucks carrying gravel to a NATO base, killing four drivers and two security guards, said Koka, an Afghan who goes by one name and owns the security company that employed the guards.

And in Zabul province, the director of the province's Peace and Reconciliation Commission—which helps former fighters renounce militancy and reenter lawful society—was killed by gunmen on the highway.

A security guard and driver were missing, said Gulab Shah Alikhail, the spokesman for Zabul's governor.

The Afghanistan NGO Safety Office, a security company that surveys the security situation in Afghanistan for aid workers and other groups, said in a year-end report that 1,977 civilians were killed in insurgency related violence last year.

The report said that insurgent attacks—including suicide and roadside bombs, gunfire, hangings and mortar fire—killed 933 Afghan civilians last year. The report said that international military forces killed 525 Afghan civilians in aerial bombings and ground maneuvers.

An Associated Press count based on official figures found that more than 6,500 people—mostly militants—died in insurgency related violence in 2007, the deadliest year in Afghanistan since the 2001 ouster of the Taliban.

Pakistani military attacks militants

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—The Pakistani military pounded an extremist stronghold Sunday near the Afghan border where a rebel leader blamed for the assassination of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is believed to be hiding, officials and witnesses said.

The strikes came after authorities said Saturday they had arrested a 15-year-old boy in northwestern Pakistan alleged to have been involved in the Dec. 27 slaying of Bhutto, an opposition leader critical of rising Islamic extremism in the country.

The central government has never had much control over South Waziristan, a tribal area where several top militants are believed to live. They included Baitullah Mehsud, a Pakistani accused by the government and the CIA of masterminding the killing of Bhutto.

Officials said the boy had confessed to taking part in a plot to kill Bhutto in a gun and suicide bomb attack in the garrison town of Rawalpindi. His role in the mission to kill Bhutto was as a backup in case the shooter or the suicide attacker failed, according to an intelligence official who has seen his interrogation records.

The boy said the slaying was organized by Mehsud, who has previously denied any involvement in the attack, according to the official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to release the information.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Bus accident kills 38 in western India

MUMBAI, India (AP)—A bus carrying Hindus on a religious pilgrimage skidded off a hill in western India and plunged into a gorge, killing at least 38 people and injuring 40 others, police said Monday. Five children and 17 women were among the dead, said police inspector R.D. Jadhav at the Nashik police station, near the scene of the accident about 155 miles east of Mumbai. The crash took place shortly before midnight Sunday, he added. The bus was only made to seat 45 people but was carrying about 80 passengers when it crashed, Jadhav said. The driver, who survived, fled the scene.

Indonesia's Suharto speaks, moves hands

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Former Indonesian dictator Suharto moved his hands and spoke in a whisper Sunday in what doctors called a "miraculous" recovery from a potentially fatal blood infection after more than two weeks on life support. Suharto, 86, was hospitalized Jan. 4 with severe kidney, lung and heart trouble. His condition deteriorated rapidly a week ago when he developed pneumonia and sepsis, a blood infection particularly dangerous for the elderly. Preparations had begun for a state funeral, the family mausoleum was put in order and passes were handed out to the media for a memorial service after his heart briefly stopped.

Macau casinos threaten Hong Kong racing

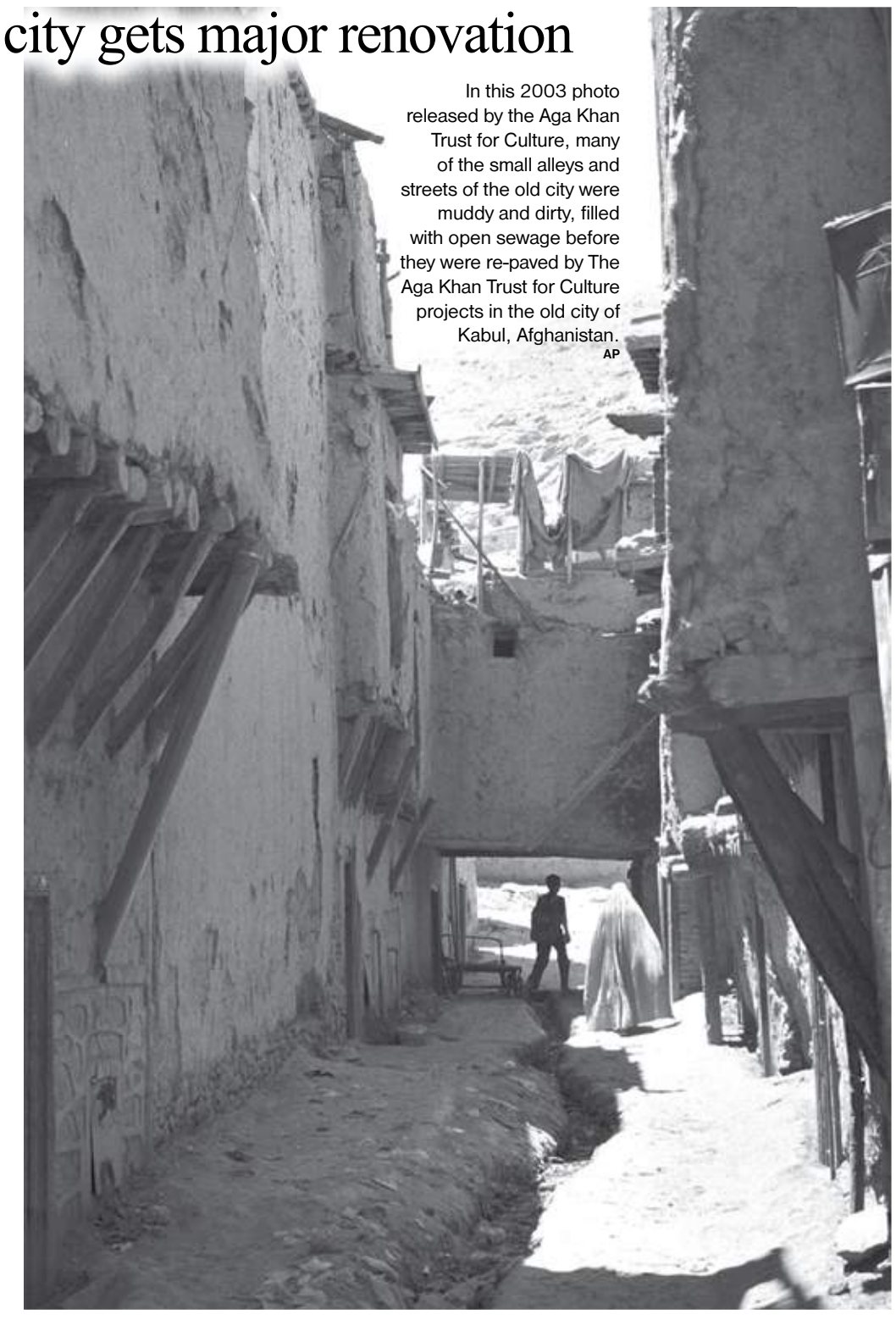
HONG KONG (AP)—The 124-year-old Hong Kong Jockey Club, whose racetrack revenues are one of the secrets of the territory's economic success, is facing a decidedly modern threat: glitzy casinos being built by Las Vegas operators in nearby Macau. The new competitors are draining away at least $2.4 billion a year in potential betting revenue, or about 20 percent of last year's take, estimates the club's Chief Executive Officer Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges. Although the club has the monopoly on gambling in Hong Kong, it has seen its revenues squeezed by illegal bookmakers, and more recently, casino-resorts in Macau, which last year raked in more gaming revenue than the Las Vegas Strip.

Taiwanese question independence push

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Disgruntled voters gave the thumbs-down to President Chen Shui-bian's vision of an independent Taiwan this month, propelling the opposition Nationalist Party to a landslide victory in legislative elections. Many Taiwanese feel that Chen is pushing too hard, too fast, for formal and permanent separation from China—a move Beijing says would compel it to attack. The island of Taiwan already enjoys de facto independence, and most of its 23 million people don't want to antagonize their militarily powerful neighbor. Chen's contentious independence push, which includes restricting Taiwanese investment in China, will be put to the test in a March 22 presidential election to select his successor.

Kabul's old city gets major renovation

By ALISA TANG
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER



In this 2003 photo released by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, many of the small alleys and streets of the old city were muddy and dirty, filled with open sewage before they were re-paved by The Aga Khan Trust for Culture projects in the old city of Kabul, Afghanistan.
AP

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Last year the streets in parts of the old city dropped by nine feet.

The reason? A massive garbage haul. Just about every unemployed man in Murad Khane was recruited to clean up years of litter and mud piled on top of the streets. By the time they were done, the streets and alleys were lower.

The garbage project is part of an effort to clean up and restore old Kabul, after six years of relative peace and with millions of dollars from foreign donors.

The Turquoise Mountain Foundation, which is dedicated to traditional Afghan arts and architecture, has spent $1 million on conservation and clean-up in the Murad Khane neighborhood since last year. The Kabul organization is financed by both Western and Middle East donors.

The lower street level at first left Abdul Salaam's door looking oddly out of place, perched three feet higher than the square in front of it. So Turquoise Mountain had to fix his door, too, with fresh mud scars showing where it used to be. The frayed edges of plastic bags still stick out of the wall.

"It looks much nicer," Salaam said about the cleaned-up neighborhood. "And it doesn't smell bad anymore."

Next door to Salaam's house, Turquoise Mountain has just completed its first full restoration, the 130-year-old Peacock House—so called because of the carved wooden peacocks at the corners of the wooden window screens.

Similar houses are tucked away in the narrow alleys of the old city in this war-torn capital. Walk through a wooden portal and a covered walkway, and a visitor emerges in an intimate courtyard, surrounded on all sides by carved screens—as if encased in a wooden jewelry box. The screens lift in warm weather, opening the house to the courtyard.

These intricate, 19th century homes barely survived bombardment in the 1990s, when Kabul became the front line of Afghanistan's bloody civil war, and earlier plans to raze them for apartments. But rocket shells and earthquakes have left most teetering in rickety ruin.

Now the mud and timber homes are being restored to their former splendor, instilling a newfound pride among the mostly working-class residents of the old city.

"It used to be so beautiful, but during the fighting, a couple of rockets landed on the house," said Aminullah, a 63-year-old carpenter whose family has lived in the same two-story wooden structure for nearly two centuries.

The roof has been repaired and the courtyard repaved with bricks.

"The houses in the old city are so old," said Aminullah, who uses only one name. "They were handed down to us from our forefathers. If someone asked me to exchange it (for a modern one), I would not trade it because I'm very attached to this house."

His home is one of 11 restored by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, which has spent more than $8 million on historic conservation in Kabul since 2002, just after the U.S. invasion drove out the Taliban regime.

World

US: Armor-piercing bomb attacks down

AP

U.S. Army soldiers from Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment search the body of a dead suspected insurgent, who was killed by an attack helicopter in Arab Jabour south of Baghdad, Iraq on Sunday, Jan. 20, 2008. The attack aviation killed two men after they were spotted running with AK-47s as the soldiers entered Arab Jabour on an operation with air support.

BAGHDAD (AP)—The U.S. military worried Sunday about "mixed messages" from Iran, listing a dramatic drop in Iranian-made weapons reaching Iraq but no reduction in the training and financing of Shiite militants.

The report card further muddles U.S.-Iranian relations as Washington ratchets up its anti-Tehran rhetoric in the shadow of a recent intelligence report that the Islamic Republic halted a nuclear weapons program four years ago.

A second suicide bombing in two days, meanwhile, killed six people in Anbar province, birthplace of the Sunni movement against al-Qaida in Iraq that has been a major factor in a recent downturn in nationwide violence.

The apparent target near Fallujah was a U.S.-backed Sunni tribal sheik who escaped harm, but the bombing reflected the difficulty in routing insurgents led by al-Qaida in Iraq even in areas where the military has made major gains.

SOURCE: ESRI AP

Rear Adm. Gregory Smith, a U.S. military spokesman in Baghdad, said attacks using powerful Iranian-made bombs known as explosively formed penetrators, or EFPs, have fallen off in recent days after a sharp but brief increase in the first half of the month.

Late last year, the military said the flow of EFPs into Iraq had slowed, but Gen. David Petraeus, the top U.S. commander, said last week that attacks with the weapons had risen by a factor of two or three in the first half of this month.

Smith said the increase fell off again last week.

"The number of signature weapons that had come from Iran and had been used against coalition and Iraqi forces are down dramatically except for this short uptick in the EFPs in the early part of January," Smith said at a news conference.

"There was an increase, we don't know why precisely," he added. "There was an increase clearly of that weapon and now they've returned to normal levels."

Smith said the U.S. is trying to understand the various ways in which Iran exerts influence inside Iraq, including training of and financial support to militias as well as the smuggling of weapons.

"We don't think that the level of training has been reduced at all. We don't believe that the level of financing has been reduced. It's uncertain again what is happening in Iran that's leading to that occurrence."

The remarks were the latest in the verbal sparring between the two rival countries as Washington accuses Iran of fueling the violence in Iraq by funding and arming Shiite militias. Tehran denies the charges and says it wants only to stabilize its fellow predominantly Shiite neighbor.

The push to contain Iran has been given new urgency by a Jan. 6 incident in the Persian Gulf in which U.S. warships were harassed by the Iranian naval speedboats in the Strait of Hormuz.

President Bush also has been trying to maintain pressure against Iran despite a U.S. intelligence finding that Iran had stopped a secret nuclear weapons program in 2003—contradicting White House claims that Tehran was still pursuing such arms.

Kenyans hacked to death with machetes

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Several people were beaten and hacked to death with machetes in a Nairobi slum Sunday in renewed ethnic fighting over Kenya's disputed election, residents said.

Elsewhere, police managed to quell more than two days of fierce fighting around a Catholic monastery that killed 22 people and left 200 homes burned in the Rift Valley, 190 miles northwest of the capital Nairobi, officials said.

AP

Opposition supporters threaten Kikuyu men, not seen, during ethnic fighting in the Mathare slum, Nairobi, Kenya, Sunday, Jan. 20, 2008.

The re-election of President Mwai Kibaki has tapped into a well of resentments that resurfaces regularly at election time in Kenya. But never before has it been so prolonged or taken so many lives.

A government commission says more than 600 people have been killed in violence that erupted after the Dec. 27 election, which opposition leader Raila Odinga accused Kibaki of stealing.

As Kibaki's power becomes more entrenched each day, the opposition's best hope may rest in wrangling a power-sharing agreement that might make Odinga prime minister or vice president. International mediation has so far failed to broker such a deal.

Odinga has called for another "peaceful protest" on Thursday, saying, "let them bring their guns and we will face them." The protest will take place in defiance of a ban and despite the deaths of at least 24 people in three days of protests last week—most of them blamed on police.

Sunday's bloodshed in Nairobi's Mathare slum, like much of the fighting since the vote, was between the Kikuyu and Luo ethnic groups, said resident Boniface Shikami. President Kibaki is a Kikuyu and Odinga is a Luo.

Shikami said Luos in his street had received notices warning them to leave by nightfall or risk attack.

Gaza City goes dark after power cut

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Gaza City was plunged into darkness Sunday after Israel blocked the shipment of fuel that powers its only electrical plant in retaliation for persistent rocket attacks by Gaza militants.

The power cut sent already beleaguered Gazans to stock up on food and batteries in anticipation of dark, cold days ahead. Gaza officials warned the move would cause a health catastrophe while a U.N. agency and human rights groups condemned Israel.

"We have the choice to either cut electricity on babies in the maternity ward or heart surgery patients or stop operating rooms," Gaza Health Ministry official Dr. Moaiya Hassanain said.

Four hours after the blackout, Hamas claimed that five patients died because of the cutoff of electricity in hospitals. The claim could not be confirmed.

Late Sunday, Israel carried out two airstrikes in Gaza City, Palestinian security officials said. The Israeli military confirmed both attacks in which a militant linked to Islamic Jihad was killed.

Israel justified the fuel cutoff because of continuous rocket attacks by Gaza militants. Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Arye Meckel said the Gaza Strip continues to receive 70 percent of its electricity supply directly from Israel, which would not be affected, and another 5 percent from Egypt.

The blackout "is a Hamas ploy to pretend there is some kind of crisis to attract international sympathy," Meckel told The Associated Press.

Late Sunday, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas appealed to Israel to lift the blockade, said Abbas spokesman Nabil Abu Rdeneh. Abbas effectively rules only the West Bank after Hamas expelled his forces from Gaza last June.

The exiled leader of Hamas appealed to Abbas and Arab leaders, asking them to forget their differences and help the beleaguered Gazans.

"All Arab leaders, exercise real pressure to stop this Zionist crime ... take up your role and responsibility," Khaled Mashaal told Al-Jazeera satellite TV in a live interview from Syria, where he lives in exile. "We are not asking you to wage a military war against Israel ... but just stand with us in pride and honor."

Officials from the ruling Islamic militant group Hamas shut down the plant just before 8 p.m. and Gaza City went dark, Gaza Energy Authority head Kanan Obeid said. TV crews and reporters were invited to witness the shutdown.

Minutes later, residents started a candlelight march as a protest. Live Associated Press TV pictures showed dots of light moving slowly up a darkened main street.

WORLD BRIEFS

Sketches released in Madeleine case

LONDON (AP)—Madeleine McCann's parents on Sunday released a new sketch of a man they say could have been involved in their daughter's disappearance last year during a family vacation in Portugal. The illustrations are based on descriptions a British vacationer gave of a man acting suspiciously at the holiday resort where the girl went missing in Praia da Luz. Madeleine disappeared in May, days before her 4th birthday. Her parents say they believe she was abducted from their holiday apartment as they had dinner with friends at a nearby restaurant. Family spokesman Clarence Mitchell told a London news conference the image released Sunday is similar to a previous description of a man seen carrying a child on the night of the girl's disappearance.

Castro on ballot in Cuba parliament vote

HAVANA (AP)—Cubans ratified a slate of parliamentary candidates on Sunday including Fidel Castro, the ailing 81-year-old leader who has not been seen in public for nearly 18 months. Only one choice appeared for each post in districts across the country and there was no campaigning. Some 8.4 million voters were being asked to back 614 top Communists, career politicians, musicians and athletes for posts in the legislature, known as the National Assembly. Electoral officials said an estimated 95 percent of registered voters had cast ballots as of an hour before polling stations closed Sunday evening. More complete results are expected Monday afternoon.

Serbian election heading to runoff

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP)—An ally of late autocrat Slobodan Milosevic edged ahead of the pro-Western incumbent in Serbia's presidential election Sunday, but failed to win an outright majority, according to independent monitors and partial official results. Radical Party leader Tomislav Nikolic and incumbent Boris Tadic's campaigns said they were preparing for a Feb. 3 runoff. The electoral commission, giving preliminary results after counting 30 percent of ballots, said that so far Nikolic had 38 percent support, while Tadic had 35 percent. The commission said the final results, to be issued Monday, were not likely to be much different. Belgrade's Center for Free Elections and Democracy, which independently counted votes alongside election officials, said Nikolic had received about 39 percent compared with 35 percent for Tadic.

Overdrive

Driving military's MRAP: I own the road

By RICHARD LARDNER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

LADSON, S.C. (AP)—I asked my guide in the back seat where to park as I swung my 19-ton "MRAP" by the plant where the massive military trucks are made.

"Anywhere you want," said Mike Aldrich, a vice president at Force Protection, Inc., the company that builds the vehicles.

That's right. I own the road.

The truck is called a Cougar. The initials MRAP—pronounced M-Rap—stand for a mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicle. The military is buying them by the thousands to guard troops in Iraq and Afghanistan from deadly roadside bombs.

These hulking machines rely on their heft and creative design to bull their way through blasts that cripple or destroy lesser vehicles.

What's it like to drive?

Given the chance and a bit of coaching, I found the Cougar easy to operate. It has an automatic, push-button transmission. The steering wheel tilts to whatever angle you prefer. Confined to Force Protection's property, I didn't go faster than 20 miles per hour. But the Cougar accelerates quickly and handles well. They say it will do 65 mph.

You sit up high, but there isn't much of a view. The emphasis on protection limits the number of windows, which are more than an inch thick and not very big.

You wouldn't want to parallel park one of these.

Oh, and I had a little trouble finding the turn signal.

To fire the engine up, you push in a starter switch on the left. A deep, diesel rumble takes over. With your foot on the brake, you push in a yellow button near your right knee. Shift into drive and you're moving. To stop, step on the brake, put it in neutral. Then you pull out the yellow button. A loud popping sound and a hiss. The air brake has been set.

That last step is key. Forget to take it and you may lose your vehicle.

My lone concern while driving the desert-brown Cougar around this sprawling facility outside Charleston was the possibility of running into another one. The place is crawling with them. Force Protection is building more than 300 MRAPs each month to meet the Pentagon's demands.

And Force Protection is not alone. Other defense contractors, including BAE Systems in York, Pa., and International Military and Government in Warrenville, Ill., are cranking out their own models that vary in weight and appearance. With $21 billion provided by Congress, the Defense Department already has ordered nearly 12,000 MRAPs from these companies. About 1,500 are in use. More are shipped each week to combat zones.

These trucks dwarf Humvees, the more nimble, less sturdy vehicles that have become the modern-day Jeep. But the bombs made by insurgents found the Humvee's Achilles' heel. Even when armor plating was added, troops inside were still being maimed and killed.

Last May, a month during which 90 Americans died because of improvised explosive devices, Defense Secretary Robert Gates declared the purchase of MRAPs to be the military's top acquisition priority. That was two years after commanders in Iraq first requested the heavy trucks.

AP

Mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicles (MRAP), produced by Navistar International, are loaded onto an airplane at the Charleston Air Force Base in North Charleston, S.C. in this Nov. 28, 2007 file photo.

The vehicles aren't cheap. A standard Cougar costs about $450,000 compared with $150,000 for a new armored Humvee. Depending on their size and how the military wants them equipped, other MRAP models can cost as much as $1 million each.

The Cougar and a much larger Force Protection-built MRAP called the Buffalo have been attacked more than 3,000 times. There have been only three recorded American fatalities. In one case, a service member who was not wearing his seat belt was killed when the bomb exploded near the vehicle, according to Aldrich.

"It's like the unsinkable ship," he said. "There's no military vehicle in the world that's perfect. But we've got one that's 3,000 to three."

The vehicle begins as a dark, V-shaped hull made strong enough to withstand the impact of an IED, the signature weapon of war in the 21st century. The work is done in a cavernous facility where General Electric once manufactured turbine engines. Now, thick planes of glass, massive truck axles, and sheets of specially made steel are scattered about, all waiting to be molded into lifesaving personnel carriers.

The sparks fly as workers bend, weld and grind away. The company has been criticized by lawmakers on Capitol Hill for not automating more of its hull-shaping operation, but Aldrich defends the hands-on approach. Hulls fashioned by machines often have to be rewelded by humans, he says.

Once the hull is finished, it moves along a slow-moving assembly line where hundreds of parts are attached. It takes as long as 45 days to complete a Cougar. The most visible components are the 330-horsepower Caterpillar diesel engine and the 47-inch high Michelin tires. Wiring is snaked throughout the frame for radios and GPS receivers. Race-car quality bucket seats with harness safety belts are installed to keep passengers from being thrown around.

A Cougar can hold six people.

The vehicle sits about 36 inches off the ground, and that's important. A Humvee, which has a flat bottom and rides much lower, traps the blast and shoves it up toward the crew. The MRAP's elevated geometry pushes the explosion out and away.

"It doesn't matter how good your material is or anything else, our rule of thumb around here is, 'The first three feet belongs to the blast,'" Aldrich said. "So you've got to give it this funny car look and jack it up high off the ground."

MRAPs offer more protection than Humvees, but it's difficult to know just much safer they are because of inconsistencies in the Defense Department's public casualty reports.

At least 487 U.S. troops died in Iraq last year from IEDs, roadside bombs, cars bombs and other explosives. However, the number of those troops who were riding in Humvees when killed is not clear. The Defense Department lists Humvees in at least 20 cases, but in more than 240 other fatalities involving bomb attacks, the vehicle type is not specified.

While many of the automotive components used in an MRAP are oversized, they're commercially available in large quantities. When a bomb damages a vehicle's exterior, the repairs can be done in about three days, Aldrich said.

As beefy as it is, the Cougar can hit 65 at full speed. In Iraq, where temperatures run high, drivers don't go more than 55 to avoid overheating the tires.

The truck gets about six miles to the gallon. The low mileage has raised concerns that the gas-guzzling trucks will require a large fleet of lighter refueling vehicles to follow along. That could put more rather than fewer troops at risk, suggested an October study from a Washington think tank.

The MRAP's size and weight also makes it difficult to chase the enemy down narrow roads, over unstable bridges, or across rough terrain. Citing those reasons, along with the improved security environment in western Iraq, the Marine Corps will buy just 2,300 of the vehicles instead of the 3,700 it initially planned on. The Army still wants 10,000 MRAPs, but like the Marine Corps plans to keep its more mobile Humvees

Aldrich, a former Army officer and a 1972 West Point graduate, joined Force Protection in 2003 after a long career in government and corporate sales. The company had its first vehicle loss four months after he started. One of the Buffalos, a 40-ton behemoth used for clearing mines, had been lost in Afghanistan.

Not to a roadside bomb. The Buffalo was being used by troops who hadn't been properly trained to operate it. One night while conducting a routine security sweep, the crew got out of the vehicle. The driver didn't pull out the yellow button and set the air brake. The 80,000-pound truck rolled into a lake.

They were able to tow it out, but more than $50,000 in damage had been done.

"So the first time anybody drives, I say, 'Pull out that yellow button. You hear that big pop? That tells you can get out of the vehicle. If you don't hear that pop, you don't get out of the vehicle,'" Aldrich said.

Words to live by.

Detroit auto show draws excited fans

DETROIT (AP)—Desmond Parks was torn between a sports utility vehicle with high-tech features and a colorful coupe, both by Infiniti. He's 13 and has plenty of time to choose before he'll actually drive anything, but he decided he was most impressed by the Infiniti FX45 SUV at the first public day of this year's North American International Auto Show.

"The moving seats, navigation system, steering wheel, XM Radio - I could actually drive this," he said before running to the next shiny display.

Desmond and his sister Travey Parks, 32, were among the thousands of visitors who flocked to the show in Cobo Hall as temperatures outside were in the teens.

Travey was looking forward to an escape from her leaking 1995 Dodge Neon, what she called a "$500 special."

"My dream car is a Cadillac," she said. "Any kind of Cadillac."

First-timer Mitchell Mattice liked the Jeep display and concept cars.

"The Jeep display with the waterfall blew me away," said Mattice, 30, of Omaha, Neb. "The auto show back home is nowhere near the size or magnitude of this show."

His brother, Clayton Mattice, 28, of Elkhorn, Neb., was impressed by the Pontiac G8, which had its own spinning platform and presenter. He said the car was aimed more at his generation.

"The style of it and the attention to detail give it a bit more of an edgy feel, but not over the top," he said.

Mel and Mary Lou Swetland, of Jackson, Mich., tested a model of their current vehicle at the auto show a few years ago. The 71- and 70-year olds returned to check out the new Ford F-150 they'd seen advertised on television.

"Ford impressed me with the step on the back and the step on the side" of the new F-150, Mel Swetland said.

One auto show frequenter was a bit disappointed about the lack of entertainment - other than the vehicles.

AP

These electric multi-purpose vehicles manufactured by Chinese based Li Shi Guang Ming Automobile Design Co., Ltd. are on display for the opening day of the North American International Auto Show, Saturday, Jan. 19, 2008 in Detroit.

"I haven't been to opening day in forever," said John Andzelik, of Belleville, Mich., who said he is "thinking green" after seeing hybrids at the auto show.

"It's a Saturday, it's opening day, let's get some excitement going on here."

The show continues through January 27.

Life & Style

Popular view of King ignores complexity

By DEEPTI HAJELA
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—They are some of the most famous words in American history: "I have a dream ..." And the man who said them has become an icon.

Martin Luther King Jr. has certainly gotten his share of attention this year, the subject of a presidential campaign controversy over his legacy that blew up just around the time of the holiday created to honor him.

But nearly 40 years after his assassination in April 1968, after the deaths of his wife and of others who knew both the man and what he stood for, some say King is facing the same fate that has befallen many a historical figure - being frozen in a moment in time that ignores the full complexity of the man and his message.

"Everyone knows, even the smallest kid knows about Martin Luther King, can say his most famous moment was that "I have a dream" speech," said Henry Louis Taylor Jr., professor of urban and regional planning at the University of Buffalo.

"No one can go further than one sentence," he said. "All we know is that this guy had a dream, we don't know what that dream was."

At the time of his death, King was working on anti-poverty and anti-war issues. He had spoken out against the Vietnam War in 1967, and was in Memphis in April 1968 in support of striking sanitation workers.

King had come a long way from the crowds who cheered him at the 1963 March on Washington, when he was introduced as "the moral leader of our nation" - and when he pronounced "I have a dream" on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

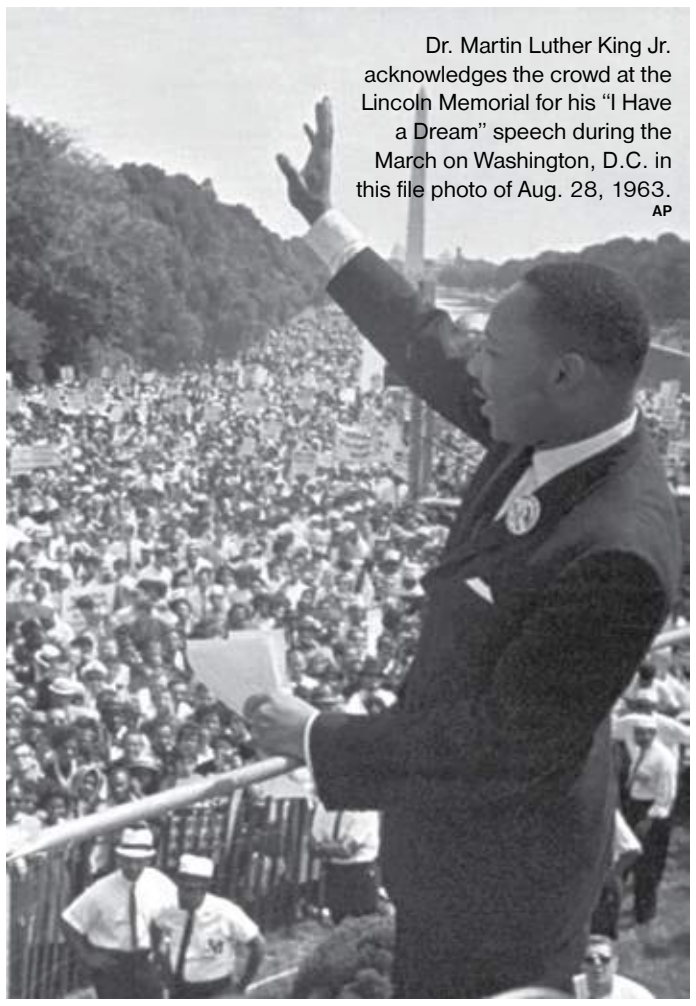
By taking on issues outside segregation, he had lost the support of many newspapers and magazines, and his relationship with the White House had suffered, said Harvard Sitkoff, a professor of history at the University of New Hampshire who has written a recently published book on King.

"He was considered by many to be a pariah," Sitkoff said.

But he took on issues of poverty and militarism because he considered them vital "to make equality something real and not just racial brotherhood but equality in fact," Sitkoff said.

While there has been scholarly study of King and everything he did, that knowledge hasn't translated into the popular culture perception of him and the civil rights movement, said Richard Greenwald, professor of history at Drew University.

"We're living increasingly in a culture of top 10 lists, of celebrity biopics which simplify the past as entertainment or mythology," he said. "We lose a view on what real leadership is by compressing him down to one window."



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. acknowledges the crowd at the Lincoln Memorial for his "I Have a Dream" speech during the March on Washington, D.C. in this file photo of Aug. 28, 1963. AP

That does a disservice to both King and society, said Melissa Harris-Lacewell, professor of politics and African-American studies at Princeton University.

By freezing him at that point, by putting him on a pedestal of perfection that doesn't acknowledge his complex views, "it makes it impossible both for us to find to new leaders and for us to aspire to leadership," Harris-Lacewell said.

She believes it's important for Americans in 2008 to remember how disliked King was in 1968.

"If we forget that, then it seems like the only people we can get behind must be popular," Harris-Lacewell said. "Following King meant following the unpopular road, not the popular one."

In becoming an icon, King's legacy has been used by people all over the political spectrum, said Glenn McNair, associate professor of history at Kenyon College.

He's been part of the 2008 presidential race, in which Barack Obama could be the country's first black president. Obama has invoked King, and Sen. John Kerry endorsed Obama by saying "Martin Luther King said that the time is always right to do what is right."

Not all the references have been received well. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton came under fire when she was quoted as saying King's dream of racial equality was realized only when President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

King has "slipped into the realm of symbol that people use and manipulate for their own purposes," McNair said.

Harris-Lacewell said that is something people need to push back against.

"It's not OK to slip into flat memory of who Dr. King was, it does no justice to us and makes him to easy to appropriate," she said. "Every time he gets appropriated, we have to come out and say that's not OK. We do have the ability to speak back."

King's jail letter carries timeless message

By K. CONNIE KANG
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—In many churches this past weekend, religious leaders extolled the life and legacy of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in anticipation of yesterday's federal holiday in his honor.

Some quoted from his "I Have a Dream" speech, delivered from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial during the March on Washington on Aug. 28, 1963.

Others invoked a letter he penned while in an Alabama jail four months earlier.

Though not as well known as his speech, King's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail"—a response to eight white clergymen's public misgivings about outsiders protesting in Alabama—remains an inspiration for clergy and students of the civil-rights movement.

"This letter is not a letter just to white churches—it's a letter to the church," said the Rev. Ralph Watkins, an African Methodist Episcopal minister who is assistant dean of Fuller Theological Seminary's African American Church Studies Department in Pasadena. "Amazingly enough, many issues that Dr. King raised in that letter we are still dealing with."

King wrote the letter in jail after he was arrested for leading a protest march in downtown Birmingham on Good Friday. Addressed to "My Dear Fellow Clergymen," the letter was released to the public two days after Easter.

In it, King, at the time president of the Atlanta-headquartered Southern Christian Leadership Conference, explained why protesters came to Birmingham:

"... I am in Birmingham because injustice is here. Just as the prophets of the 8th century BC left their villages and carried their `thus saith the Lord' far beyond the boundaries of their home towns, and just as the Apostle Paul left his village of Tarsus and carried the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the far corners of the Greco-Roman world, so am I compelled to carry the gospel of freedom beyond my own home town. Like Paul, I must constantly respond to the Macedonian call for aid."

King was referring to the Apostle Paul's vision of a man from Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help."

King went on to say that injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere: "We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

He chided his clergy critics for "deploring" the demonstrations but not injustice.

"Your statement, I am sorry to say, fails to express a similar concern for the conditions that brought about the demonstrations," he wrote.

King, a Baptist preacher and a theologian who earned a doctorate from Boston University, was 34 at the time. The letter is full of references to the Scripture and great spiritual leaders through the ages.

King said that when his clergy critics called him an "extremist," he was offended at first but later gained a "measure of satisfaction" from the label.

After all, King said, Jesus, the Prophet Amos, the Apostle Paul, German reformer Martin Luther and presidents Abraham Lincoln and Thomas Jefferson were extremists, too.

"Was not Jesus an extremist for love," King wrote, citing the command, "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you."

"Was not Amos an extremist for justice," King went on, quoting from the Book of Amos, "Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."

The question, King said, is not "whether we will be extremists, but what kind of extremists we will be."

King reserved his harshest evaluation to the white church and its leadership. When he was catapulted into the leadership of the bus protest in Montgomery, Ala., he thought the ministers, priests and rabbis of the South would become "our strongest allies," he wrote.

"Instead, some have been outright opponents, refusing to understand the freedom movement and misrepresenting its leaders; all too many others have been more cautious than courageous and have remained silent behind the anesthetizing security of stained-glass windows.

"So here we are moving toward the exit of the 20th century with a religious community largely adjusted to the status quo, standing as a tail-light behind other community agencies rather than a headlight leading men to higher levels of justice.

"I have traveled the length and breadth of Alabama, Mississippi and all the other Southern states. On sweltering summer days and crisp autumn mornings I have looked at the South's beautiful churches with their lofty spires pointing heavenward. I have beheld the impressive outlines of her massive religious-education buildings. Over and over I have found myself asking: `What

See KING'S on Next Page

King letter is available on web site

LOS ANGELES—The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., who began writing his famous "Birmingham" letter on strips of paper slipped to him in jail, apologized for its length.

"I can assure you that it would have been much shorter if I had been writing it from a comfortable desk, but what else can one do when he is alone in a narrow jail cell, other than write long letters, think long thoughts and pray long prayers?"

The King Center in Atlanta has the entire text of the letter, as well as audio of the civil-rights leader reading excerpts, at thekingcenter.org. Click on "site map." The letter is under "Programs and Services."

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Just call him 'Marty'

ATLANTA, Georgia (AP)—Martin Luther King Jr. is used to the puzzled looks he gets from people when they learn his name.

The white, long-haired graphics designer and children's book author goes by "Marty" to maintain his anonymity in the suburbs of Atlanta, where the black civil rights leader who made the moniker famous once lived.

His name is just a coincidence, but it made Marty King pay attention to the civil rights movement while growing up in a small Tennessee town during the 1960s.

"In East Tennessee, he may not have had a lot of fans, but there were some people who agreed with him," he said. "I liked his speeches. ... He was only asking for what he was due, but the way he did it commanded respect. He earned my parents' respect."

Marty King, 53, was named for his father, who was named for the German monk and theologian Martin Luther, founder of the Protestant Reformation in the early 1500s.

It is not the only famous name in his family. Marty King's grandfather was named Abraham Lincoln.

Marty King is humbled by the association to an icon. "I could cure cancer and still wouldn't be more famous," he said.

The name connection has caused some hassles along the way. There was the time the U.S. Postal Service canceled his mail and marked it "deceased."

Before Coretta Scott King died in 2006, Marty King received the occasional phone calls from confused people asking for the slain activist's widow. He also has gotten racial slurs on his answering machine.

Josh Groban to sing at Sundance festival

PARK CITY, Utah. (AP)—U2, Patti Smith, 50 Cent, John Legend and Josh Groban are contributing to the soundtrack of this year's Sundance Film Festival.

Yes, Josh Groban—he of fresh face, lyrical baritone, and last year's best-selling album, the holiday-themed "Noel."

Sundance, the annual orgy of independent cinema, which runs through Jan. 27, usually attracts alt-rock and acoustic up-and-comers, and edgier pop stars. You'd be hard-pressed to find a name familiar to Middle American moms.

But they sure know Groban, 26, the best-selling artist of 2007, who is set to perform both an intimate acoustic show and a big-ticket charity fundraiser here later this week.

The Associated Press caught up with the singer last weekend in Los Angeles, after he taped a guest appearance on the CBS special "Celine Dion: That's Just the Woman in Me," which is scheduled to air Feb. 15.

AP

Musician Josh Groban poses at a rehearsal studio Thursday, Jan. 17, 2008, in Burbank, Calif.

AP: So, Sundance.

Groban: What am I doing there? People know that I do big. You know that I can go off, I just did 10-month arena tour, a big extravaganza: big orchestra, huge ordeal. I so love the idea of going into a room with a hundred people and just myself on a piano and a guitar and bass, and just kind of breaking down some of these gorgeous melodies. ... I think it's an important night. It's an important time for music and film, and this whole acoustic thing is going to be about music and film. I have been fortunate enough to have been a part of a couple different films, so you know, I think, it's for me I am just going to have a good time.

AP: Speaking of movie music, you perform "The Prayer" (from 1998's "The Quest for Camelot") with Celine on "The Woman in Me." Isn't singing with Celine essentially how you got your start 10 years ago, filling in last minute when Andrea Bocelli couldn't make it to L.A.?

Groban: That kind of was my first-year relationship with (producer) David (Foster): "Here, kid. Let's see what you can do." You know, just throwing me into ridiculous situations where I had to fight hard not to lose it, not to lose it altogether. But that time period, and certainly that day, was a great learning experience for me and really laid the foundation for what I have been able to achieve after that. And so it was a complete full circle to see David in the audience tonight and to be able to share the song with her on stage after all these years. I would have never expected we would be talking about it on her CBS special. It's really incredible.

AP: So was 2007. You were the top-selling artist. And "Noel" was the top-selling CD of the year, and is now the longest-running chart-topping Christmas album, breaking Elvis Presley's record of four weeks.

Groban: I really feel bad about that. But he (Presley) has got me beat in so many other areas that I'll take it, I'll take it. Thanks, Elvis. No, but it was an enormous record to beat. And being an enormous Elvis buff, it was, like, an incredible thing to get the Google alert from, and so it's great. We made the CD very quickly when I was on my European tour: just a simple, beautiful CD with a great orchestra. The fans have been wanting this for a while. So we just decided to do it as a gift for the fans and it kind of became this big thing, so I am just very thankful for it.

AP: Logical segue from Christmas music to the snow in Park City. Is the Southern California boy ready?

Groban: Of course I am. We don't have seasons here. Anytime I get to find snow, it's an adventure, you know. Then I get there, and everybody who lives there is like, "Are you crazy?" But I love the snow. I am half-Norwegian and half-Russian, so, you know, it doesn't get any paler then that. So I am excited about getting out there and tasting the elements.

KING'S

From Page 18

kind of people worship here? Who is their God?'"

King added that many churches had made "strange, un-biblical distinction between body and soul, between the sacred and the secular."

The Rev. Frank Portee III, pastor of the Church of the Good Shepherd, a United Methodist Church in Willingboro, N.J., said King's message rings true today.

"Most preachers today have become super-spiritual to the neglect of the hard challenges that face the human context," said Portee, who until June was pastor of the Church of the Redeemer in South Los Angeles and convened an annual national conference for black pastors and lay leaders.

"King sought to bridge that gulf between the social and spiritual. That was the genius of his prophetic leadership."

King was not popular, Portee said, because he made so many people, including some black people, feel uncomfortable.

But that, he said, is precisely what a religious institution is sometimes called to do.

"The church always has to take a stance for justice and righteousness. That means we have to challenge families, young people and adults, to rise up to what God is calling us to be," he said.

In celebration of her 18th Day of Holy Rosary and Memorial Mass

We, the family of the Late

ELIZABETH MILAGRO FLORES CAMACHO

Wish to inform our Relatives and Friends that our Beloved's 18th Day Celebration will be on Tuesday, January 22, 2008 beginning with the Recitation of the Holy Rosary at 4:30 pm followed by the Memorial Mass at 5:00 pm at the San Roque Church. Please join us for dinner immediately after the Memorial Mass at the Residence of Mr. Zeno Guerrero nearby the former La Fiesta Mall.

We are humbled and deeply touched by your love, prayers, kind deeds and the tremendous support you have given us during our Bereavement. The list is too numerous to mention all of your names but rest assured that all of you are equally welcomed and appreciated.

It is through you that our Beloved's Peaceful Spirit and Memories continue to grow stronger living on each day. We will remember you in our thoughts and prayers.

May God bless us all!

The Family of the Late Elizabeth Milagro Flores Camacho

Isias (dec) & Merced C. Maratita and Family
Jimmy (dec) & Augustina (Tina) C. Sablan/Jose R. Cabrera (dec) and Family
Jesus Q. & Wilhelma (Nita) JC. Deleon Guerrero and Family
Arthur F. & Maria (dec) Camacho and Family
Fred F. & Magdalena C. Camacho and Family
Faustino F. & Lillian T. Camacho and Family
James & Alfonsina (Sina) C. Taylor and Family
Thomas & Anicia C. Dela Cruz and Family
Rosiky F. & Winnie C. Camacho and Family
Abraham & Immaculada (Emma) C. Arriola and Family
Rufino F. Camacho & Kiyomi Mafnas and Family

First Death Anniversary

We, the family of the late

† Vicente Manglona Concepcion

"Ben-Ki"

would like to invite our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the first anniversary of his passing to eternal life.

MARCH 8, 1950 - JANUARY 30, 2007

Daily Mass will be celebrated at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral every morning at 6:00 a.m. beginning Tuesday, January 22 through Wednesday, January 30, 2008, and also every evening at 6:00 p.m. at the San Vicente Church. Holy Rosary will be said at 6:30 p.m. every evening at San Vicente Church.

Your presence, thoughts and prayers will forever be remembered.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase/ Thank you.

KI CONCEPCION & CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN

'Cloverfield' pulls down monster $41M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The creature-feature "Cloverfield" became the first monster hit released in 2008, debuting with $41 million, a record opening for January, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Paramount's tale of a giant reptile causing chaos in New York City surpassed the $35.9 million premiere weekend of the "Star Wars" special edition in 1997, the previous best for January.

Opening in second-place was 20th Century Fox's romantic comedy "27 Dresses," starring Katherine Heigl as a perpetual bridesmaid. It pulled in $22.4 million.

The weekend's other new wide release, Overture Films' crime comedy "Mad Money," with Diane Keaton, Queen Latifah and Katie Holmes plotting a Federal Reserve Bank heist, opened at No. 7 with $7.7 million.

Overall business surged, with the top-12 movies taking in $135.3 million, up 39 percent from the same weekend last year.

1. "Cloverfield," $41 million.
2. "27 Dresses," $22.4 million.
3. "The Bucket List," $15.2 million.
4. "Juno," $10.3 million.
5. "National Treasure: Book of Secrets," $8.1 million.
6. "First Sunday," $7.8 million.
7. "Mad Money," $7.7 million.
8. "Alvin and the Chipmunks," $7 million.
9. "I Am Legend," $5.1 million.
10. "Atonement," $4.8 million.

Featuring a cast of unknowns, "Cloverfield" tells its monster story from the perspective of a partygoer's hand-held video camera, which captures the mayhem as the creature tears through the city.

The film benefited from cryptic marketing that sent young moviegoers on a scavenger hunt to decode clues about the movie's plot, images and even its title, which was not confirmed until shortly before its release.

"As we started it, we asked, how do we draw people in and have them say, `Hey, I want to know more about that. That looked cool, that looked intriguing,'" said Rob Moore, Paramount vice chairman. "Then fortunately, they delivered a movie that was as unique and engaging as people had hoped from the marketing campaign."

The big winners at the previous weekend's truncated Golden Globes had mixed results cashing in on their prizes.

Focus Features' gloomy romance "Atonement," the Globe winner for best drama, expanded into wider release and added $4.8 million to its haul, raising its total to $31.9 million. Business was up slightly from the previous weekend.

Yet the Globes' best musical or comedy winner, Paramount's "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street," also added theaters but took in just $2.6 million, down significantly from a weekend earlier. "Sweeney Todd" has taken in $48 million to date.

AP

This undated photo provided by Paramount Pictures shows Michael Stahl-David, left, and Odette Yustman during a scene from "Cloverfield."

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Cloverfield

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:45
Sat and Sun	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:45
Monday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Tue thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Michael Stahl David, Mike Vogel
Comedy, Drama • Rated PG13

Synopsis
Five young New Yorkers throw their friend a going-away party the night that a monster the size of a skyscraper descends upon the city. Their video camera documents their attempt to survive the most surreal, horrifying event of their lives.

27 Dresses

Friday		4:15	7:20	10:00
Sat and Sun	1:10	4:15	7:20	10:00
Monday	1:10	4:15	7:20	
Tue thru Thurs		4:15	7:20	

Katherine Heigl, James Marsden
Romantic Comedy • Rated PG13

Mad Money

Friday		4:25	7:30	9:50
Sat and Sun	1:25	4:25	7:30	9:50
Monday	1:25	4:25	7:30	
Tue thru Thurs		4:25	7:30	

Diane Keaton, Queen Latifah
Comedy, Drama • Rated PG13

★ ★ ★

The Bucket List

Friday		4:10	7:15	9:30
Sat and Sun	1:20	4:10	7:15	9:30
Monday	1:20	4:10	7:15	
Tue thru Thurs		4:10	7:15	

Jack Nicholson, Morgan Freeman
Comedy, Drama • Rated PG13

Synopsis
A long time ago, Carter Chambers' philosophy professor suggested that his students compose a "bucket list," a collection of all the things they wanted to do, see and experience in life before they kicked the bucket. But while Carter was trying to define his private dreams and plans, reality intruded.

First Sunday

Friday		4:30	7:05	9:55
Sat and Sun	1:30	4:30	7:05	9:55
Monday	1:30	4:30	7:05	
Tue thru Thurs		4:30	7:05	

Ice Cube, Regina Hall
Comedy, Drama • Rated PG13

Alvin & The Chipmunks

Friday		4:05	7:10	9:35
Sat and Sun	1:05	4:05	7:10	9:35
Monday	1:05	4:05	7:10	
Tue thru Thurs		4:05	7:10	

Jason Lee, Cameron Richardson
Comedy, Family • Rated PG

One Missed Call

Friday		@	7:25	9:40
Sat and Sun	@	@	7:25	9:40
Monday	@	@		
Tue thru Thurs		@		

Edward Burns, Shannyn Sossamon
Horror, Remake • Rated PG13

The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep

Friday		4:20	@	@
Sat and Sun	1:15	4:20	@	@
Monday	1:15	4:20	@	
Tue thru Thurs		4:20	@	

Emily Watson, Ben Chaplin
Family, Adventure • Rated PG

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Young celebrities prompting early obits

By JOHN ROGERS
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It's never been a secret that when people die after long and distinguished careers, those detailed stories about their passing that major news organizations seem to produce almost instantaneously in fact were written well in advance.

Now news that The Associated Press has prepared an obituary for 26-year-old Britney Spears has put the spotlight on a debate transpiring within the business of reporting death: With people grabbing the celebrity spotlight at a younger age, and some of them living lives of obviously dangerous excess, is it time for news organizations to begin preparing for early exits from celebritydom's under-30 crowd?

"It's a complex issue, a complex debate," says Washington Post reporter Adam Bernstein, one of the news media's most respected obituary writers. "It's unclear to what degree somebody really is on the edge. So do you spend the time to put something together when you're wondering whether it will run now or 70 years from now?"

Of the approximately 100 prepared obituaries The Washington Post has in its files, Bernstein couldn't recall any on a person under 30. He also questioned whether an obituary on someone like the troubled pop star could be much more than a recitation of bizarre public behavior, as opposed to focusing on real accomplishment.

"Somebody like Britney Spears or Lindsay Lohan or Amy Winehouse, you could arguably put something together," he said, naming three young stars who have lately become more prominent for bouts of bizarre behavior than displays of talent.

"But it takes a significant chunk of your time to do it and there are people who are incredibly more accomplished and in their 100s," Bernstein added.

He didn't deny, however, the huge public interest in anything any young star does. When Anna Nicole Smith, mainly famous for being famous, died at age 39 of a drug overdose last year, The Washington Post and numerous other newspapers put her obituary on their front pages.

Such interest, veteran Hollywood publicist Michael Levine believes, is being driven by the Internet. He speculated that the Web's ability to make stars of people overnight is forcing news organizations to be more prepared to tell those celebrities' stories within minutes of their demise.

"Technology makes all this stuff much more present in the consciousness of the culture," said Levine, former publicist for one of Hollywood's most bizarre personalities, Michael Jackson.

"There's much more pressure to get the news out right now," he added. "You distribute or you die."

It was Smith's death that served as a "wake-up call" to be prepared to report immediately on any high-profile person with a public history of troubled behavior, said Lou Ferrara, the AP's managing editor for sports, entertainment and multimedia.

"I don't think anyone particularly likes this part of the business, but it is something you need to do," said Ferrara, who was one of the editors who asked for the Spears obituary.

When Smith, the former Playboy Playmate of the Year, was found dead in a Florida hotel room, the AP did not have a prepared obituary. Neither did it have one on Brad Renfro, the 25-year-old actor who died earlier this month, two years after being arrested as he tried to purchase heroin on Los Angeles' Skid Row.

Oscar noms arrive, but will show go on?

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Film fans finally will soon learn who's competing for this season's Academy Awards. Now all we need to know is whether any nominees will turn up for the big show amid a writers strike that has thrown the awards season into turmoil.

The list of Oscar nominees Tuesday is expected to include such luminaries as Cate Blanchett, George Clooney, Daniel Day-Lewis and Angelina Jolie.

That smattering of talent alone would ensure that a lot of people at home would tune in to the Feb. 24 ceremony. But without the cooperation of the striking Writers Guild of America, celebrities might honor the union's picket lines and stay away from the Oscars, leaving the show's planners to either scrap the telecast or come up with some new form of Oscar ceremony unlike anything audiences have seen before.

The word around Hollywood is that the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has a backup plan to put on the show without the blessing of writers and stars, but they declined to disclose details.

Gil Cates, producer of the Oscar telecast, has vowed the show will come off no matter what, hinting the program could be padded with clips from 80 years of Oscar history if writers and stars do not cooperate.

New marker for Janis Joplin's Texas home

PORT ARTHUR, Texas (AP)—Janis Joplin's laugh still rings in the memory of a childhood friend.

At a gathering to dedicate a historic marker in front of one of the singer's childhood homes, Monteel Copple recalled her friend's laugh as they tried to keep their skirts in place while hanging upside down on the school's monkey bars.

"I can remember her giggle," Copple told those gathered Saturday for the dedication of the Texas State Historical Marker.

Saturday would have been Joplin's 65th birthday. She died of a drug overdose on Oct. 4, 1970.

Joplin rose to fame during San Francisco's 1967 "Summer of Love" with the band Big Brother and the Holding Company, gaining acclaim when she performed her version of blues singer Big Mama Thornton's "Ball and Chain" at the Monterey International Pop Festival. She later recorded such hits as "Piece of My Heart" and "Me and Bobby McGee."

Joplin was 4 when her family moved into the house that now has the marker. The family moved out in 1975. Her first childhood home was torn down in 1980.

Alicia and David Sanchez and their 8-year-old son now live in the house. As they helped pull a Texas flag off the marker, some people in the crowd shouted "We love you, Janis."

Nigerian militants invite Clooney

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)—Militants in Nigeria's restive oil region on Saturday invited actor and peace activist George Clooney to visit the area and asked for U.N. intervention in their conflict.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon designated Clooney as a U.N. "messenger of peace" Friday to promote the world body's activities, especially in its far-flung peacekeeping missions. The 46-year-old actor has been campaigning for an end to the 4 1/2-year war in Darfur and for humanitarian aid for the millions caught up in the conflict.

Nigeria's Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta congratulated Clooney on his appointment and invited him to visit their impoverished region, which has been wracked by two years of fighting, bombings and kidnapping of foreign workers.

"Mr. Clooney, MEND extends an invitation to you to see things for yourself and is willing to work with you and other credible peace makers of international repute to stop Nigeria from plunging into the abyss of war," the group said in a statement e-mailed to reporters.

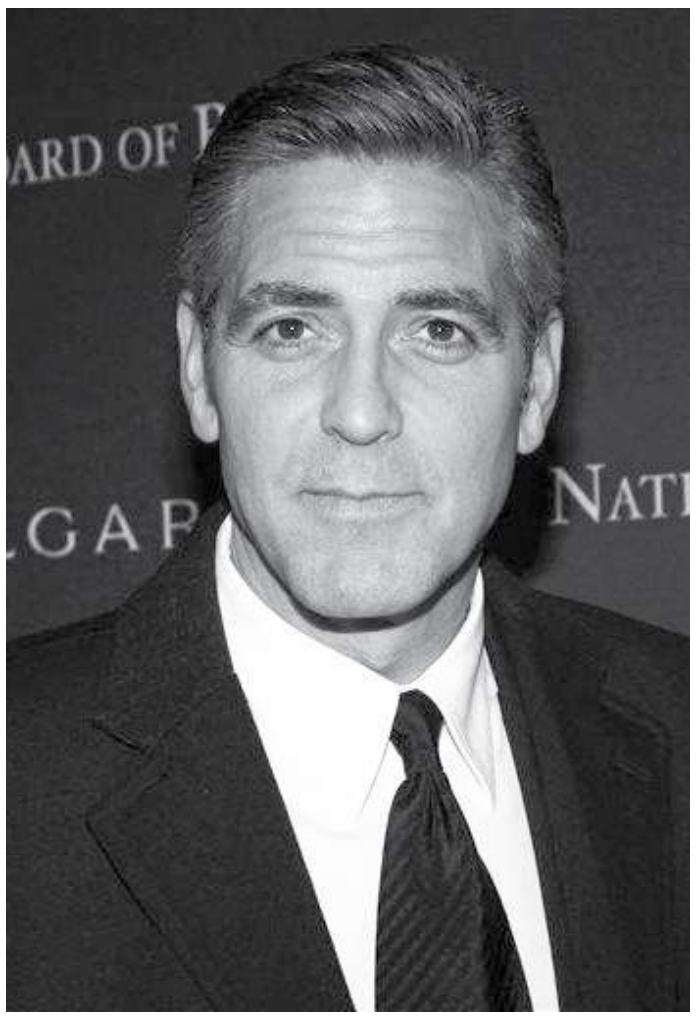
It said the unrest in the region was building up to a crisis that would dwarf Darfur's.

Clooney was not immediately available for comment.

The group asked for the United Nations to take a role—which it did not specify—in the conflict.

"We suggest that the U.N. should take a proactive step to nip the Niger Delta unrest in the bud before it is too late. Your role as a Messenger of Peace makes it imperative to consider the Niger Delta as a potential time bomb waiting to explode for which urgent steps must be taken."

The call for foreign intervention was unusual, as the militant group has so far used Africa's biggest oil industry as a leverage point to pressure Nigeria's government to meet its demands.



AP

George Clooney arrives at the National Board of Review of Motion Pictures awards gala in New York in this Jan. 15, 2008 file photo.

Those include more oil revenue for the region, and the release from prison of some of the group's top leaders. Attacks since early 2006 have cut Nigeria's oil production by about one quarter, helping send oil prices to historic highs.

Nearly 200 foreign workers have been kidnapped in the region in the past two years; they normally are released unharmed after a ransom is paid.

The militants have offered a unilateral truce if one of their leaders is released from prison in Angola, where he is being held on arms-smuggling charges. The group said Saturday the man was sick and they asked for an international envoy to visit him in prison.

While many U.N. agencies have goodwill ambassadors to promote activities ranging from helping children and refugees to promoting human rights, "messengers of peace" are selected by the secretary-general to promote the broader work of the United Nations.

Clooney will receive his designation at U.N. headquarters Jan. 31.

Suzanne Pleshette dies in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Suzanne Pleshette, best known for her role as Bob Newhart's wife on television's long-running "The Bob Newhart Show," has died, just days before a ceremony honoring her with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Pleshette, who underwent chemotherapy for lung cancer in 2006, died of respiratory failure Saturday evening at her Los Angeles home, said attorney and family friend Robert Finkelstein.

The beautiful, husky-voiced TV, film and theater star was set to attend the Jan. 31 ceremony, her 71st birthday.

"She was a pro's pro," Bob Newhart said. "Although we knew she was quite sick, she was one of those people that you thought would go on forever."

"The Bob Newhart Show, a hit throughout its six-year run, starred comedian Newhart as a Chicago psychiatrist surrounded by eccentric patients. Pleshette—as his sardonic wife—provided the voice of reason. Four years after the show ended in 1978, Newhart went on to the equally successful "Newhart" series in which he was the proprietor of a New England inn populated by more eccentrics. When that show ended in 1990, Pleshette reprised her role—from the first show—in one of the most clever final episodes in TV history.

AP

Suzanne Pleshette poses during a discussion for TV Land's 35th anniversary tribute to "The Bob Newhart Show," in this Sept. 5, 2007 file photo, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

It had Newhart waking up in the bedroom of his "The Bob Newhart Show" home with Pleshette at his side. He went on to tell her of the crazy dream he'd just had of running an inn filled with a cast of odd characters.

"If I'm in Timbuktu, I'll fly home to do that," Pleshette said of her reaction when Newhart told her how he was thinking of ending the show.

Born Jan. 31, 1937, in New York City, Pleshette began her career as a stage actress after attending the city's High School of the Performing Arts and studying at its Neighborhood Playhouse. She was often picked for roles because of her beauty and her throaty voice.

"When I was 4," she told an interviewer in 1994, "I was answering the phone, and (the callers) thought I was my father. So I often got quirky roles because I was never the conventional ingenue."

Cambodian police block Mia Farrow

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—Cambodian police blocked Mia Farrow from holding a genocide memorial ceremony Sunday at a Khmer Rouge prison, at one point forcefully pushing her group away from a barricade.

Farrow, who is working with the U.S.-based advocacy group Dream for Darfur, was in Cambodia as part of a seven-nation tour of countries that have suffered genocide to call attention to the humanitarian crisis in Sudan.

"My heart—our hearts—are breaking for what happened in Cambodia today, especially for the survivors of genocide," Farrow told a news conference after the confrontation with police.

The Cambodian government had barred the ceremony several days ago and police on Sunday sealed off all roads leading to the Khmer Rouge's infamous Tuol Sleng prison, which is now a genocide museum.

Woman can't contain her rage at breakup with her boyfriend

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: To be honest with you, if I had a gun, I could shoot either myself or my ex-boyfriend. I was in love with him from the first day we met. We talked about everything in life and also about our relationship. Now he says he's "not ready" for a relationship!

I don't understand men. Don't they know that we have hearts? How could he just wake up one morning and make a decision without considering my feelings or how it will affect me?

Abby, I have a child, and my breasts are not that attractive. I even told him I would go under the knife to make them just the way he wants them. Now I'm left wondering if I should still go for the surgery so maybe he'll be attracted to me again and come back. I can't bear the idea that maybe he has found someone else who is more attractive.

I need your help because sometimes I feel so much hate for him that I feel like getting revenge and doing something to him so no woman will ever be attracted to him anymore, and he'll feel what I'm feeling now. I will wait upon your answer so I'll know what to do next.

—RAGING IN DUBAI

DEAR RAGING: The first thing you must do is calm yourself. Do nothing until your anger subsides and you are again thinking clearly—which you aren't right now.

I know you are hurting, and your disappointment and anger are palpable, but you have something far more important to consider than "getting revenge," and that is the welfare of your child. How would your actions affect your child?

A man who would criticize your breasts was not truly interested in you—the person attached to them. Having plastic surgery in the hope that a man who rejected you will return is the wrong reason for having it done. You could have breasts like the Venus de Milo, and it wouldn't win the heart of a man who simply craves variety.

I am not familiar with the mental health services that are available in Dubai. If you lived in the United States, I would urge you to talk to a psychologist because I feel strongly that you have underlying issues that predate the experience you have described in your letter. If that is not possible, then please talk to some older women you can trust so they can share their wisdom with you. You are in my prayers.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My mother-in-law lives alone, but comes to our house every day to eat lunch and dinner. She has a son who lives in the same town as my wife and me, but she never goes to his house.

My wife doesn't like this arrangement either, but she doesn't know how to tactfully tell her mother to stay away once in a while. We're both in our late 40s; her mother is 82. We would like to spend some time alone.

When I say my mother-in-law is here every day, I mean EVERY DAY! Please tell me if this is normal, and how we can tell her we need some alone time.

—PAUL IN VIRGINIA

DEAR PAUL: No, it is not "normal." You have described a woman who appears to be isolated and friendless. Could she also have money problems or a physical disability that prevents her from shopping and preparing her own meals?

If you and your wife would like some time alone, then you both are going to have to find the backbone to say so. And, if necessary, you or your wife should prepare a dish that her mother can eat in her own home.

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

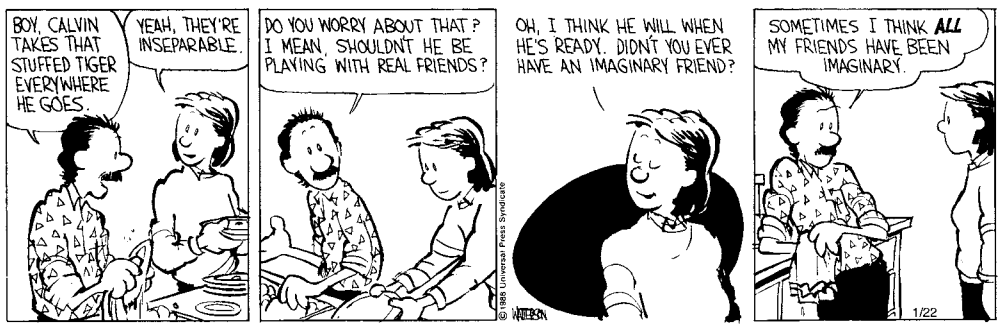
■ ■ ■

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


BOY, CALVIN TAKES THAT STUFFED TIGER EVERYWHERE HE GOES.
YEAH, THEY'RE INSEPARABLE.
DO YOU WORRY ABOUT THAT? I MEAN, SHOULDN'T HE BE PLAYING WITH REAL FRIENDS?
OH, I THINK HE WILL WHEN HE'S READY. DIDN'T YOU EVER HAVE AN IMAGINARY FRIEND?
SOMETIMES I THINK ALL MY FRIENDS HAVE BEEN IMAGINARY.
1/22

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

BOBBY, IS THAT MY NAME UP ON THE BIG BOARD?
YEP, THE MANAGER PUT THAT UP FOR ALL THE WORLD TO SEE.
ADAM NEWMAN
COOL. I'M HONORED TO HAVE A DRINK NAMED AFTER ME.
NO, DUDE. THAT'S FOR BOUNCING A CHECK.
TRACK
Brian Basset
1/22

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "My bad"
5 Bream's breather
9 Intimidate
12 Gambling game
13 Met melody
14 Pi follower
15 Auditioning
17 Yang counterpart
18 Strawberry steed
19 "Silas Marner" author
21 Bistros
24 Fiber source
25 Look lecherously
26 Trail the pack
30 Possibly will
31 Reef material
32 Comic Leno
33 Apes and kin
35 Macadamize
36 Infamous lyre player
37 Frat party garb
38 GIs' alarm clock
40 Get ready
42 Genetic abbr.
43 Skillet
48 Listending abbr.
49 Partially mine
50 Desire
51 Affliction
52 Stench
53 Unadulterated

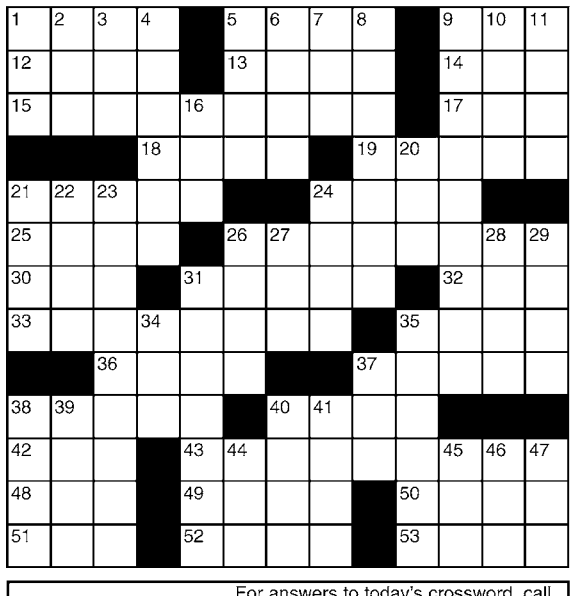
DOWN

1 Frequently
2 Rowing need
3 Snoop
4 Evening affair
5 Head over heels
6 Press agent?
7 Actress Lucy
8 Sideways
9 Binge of tears
10 Cleveland's place
11 Refuse to
16 Ph. bk. data
20 Fall behind
21 Freebie
22 Culture medium
23 Snoopy, in his fantasies
24 Support group?
26 Hernando de —
27 More than due, fewer than quattro
28 Stromboli spillage
29 "Mine — have seen ..."
31 Tend
34 Brooks or Blanc
35 Cork shooter
37 Toe tally
38 Concoct
39 "Do — others ..."
40 Combustible heap
41 Put on the line
44 Regret
45 Post-opposite
46 Khan title
47 Profit

Solution time: 21 mins.

M	A	S	S	■	P	O	P	■	W	R	A	P
A	L	O	E	V	E	R	A	■	E	A	R	L
D	E	S	S	E	R	T	S	■	A	S	I	A
■	■	■	A	R	K	■	S	A	S	H	A	Y
C	L	I	M	B	■	V	O	C	E	■	■	■
A	I	D	E	■	R	E	V	I	L	E	D	■
D	E	L	■	H	E	X	E	D	■	Y	O	U
■	D	E	L	I	V	E	R	■	F	E	L	T
■	■	■	E	K	E	D	■	A	I	S	L	E
G	A	R	N	E	R	■	B	R	R	■	■	■
A	L	I	T	■	S	T	R	E	S	S	E	D
D	E	L	I	■	A	W	E	A	T	H	E	R
S	E	L	L	■	L	O	W	■	S	A	N	S

Yesterday's answer 1-22



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CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Robyn Richards, 21; Willa Ford, 27; Diane Lane, 43; Linda Blair, 49

Happy Birthday: You'll be eager to get things going this year. The more passion you put into whatever you are trying to accomplish, the more interest you will receive. Help will be offered, so don't hesitate to take advantage of what's being made available. Your mind will be in tune with what will work and your timing will be perfect. Your numbers are 1, 7, 20, 27, 34, 49

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Do something that's fun, creative and gets your juices flowing. You can follow your heart and your dreams today and get fabulous results. Your ability to drum up interest with your animated description of your goals will enable you to close a deal. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't get too wrapped up in any melodrama going on at home or with loved ones. You are better off not to meddle. An opportunity to meet with people from different walks of life will give you renewed enthusiasm for a project or a trip. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You can make a point that will get everyone around you thinking more like you. An interesting conversation will lead you in a passionate direction. A love relationship will develop or grow into something very stable. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Venture away from home to a destination that is totally unfamiliar to you and you will learn to make better decisions in the future. An idea that can potentially make you money should be put into play or at least researched. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Focus on making money and you will. An investment should pay off. An inheritance, gift or winning is likely to come your way. Emotions will be difficult to control. Be honest. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't let your enthusiasm about someone or something stop you from seeing what's actually going on. Be careful not to get involved in a scheme that could cause you to lose financially. Cover your own back and avoid loss. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Follow through with your plans. Your only downfall will be laziness or trying to get everyone else to carry the brunt of the work. Dig in and work toward something you want and you will get even more than you expect. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Be careful whom you trust. If something needs to be done, do it yourself. Don't share your belongings or cash with others if you expect to receive something in return. Stay in control. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't get angry, get moving. If you stand still and watch others take advantage of you or you let the competition get ahead, you will have no one to blame but yourself. Be clever, not an open book. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Love and money don't usually mix that well. Protect your assets and you won't have to worry about what someone you thought you could trust is doing. An original approach to something you do well will lead to profits. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Open your eyes and stay on top of what's happening around you. You can take advantage of an opportunity that will help you gain respect among your peers. Love is looking good and an agreement between you and someone you care about can be made. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): A lot that you need to know to make a good decision will not be out in the open. Don't feel pressured by anyone to say yes or no to anything. Figure out what you want to do and take a pass on anyone who doesn't like your position. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are incredibly giving, generous and gracious. You have a strong sense of fair play. You are eager to prove your point.

Eugenia's Web sites: **astroadvice.com** *for fun,* **eugenialast.com** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

5			4	7	3			2
		4				8		
	2			8			5	
4				5				9
7		1	6		8	2		5
6				9				1
	6			4			9	
		7				5		
8			5	1	6			4

Difficulty Level ★★ 1/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	4	5	1	9	3	6	7	8
3	7	9	8	6	4	5	1	2
1	8	6	2	5	7	3	4	9
5	9	2	4	1	6	7	8	3
6	1	7	5	3	8	2	9	4
4	3	8	7	2	9	1	6	5
7	6	3	9	8	5	4	2	1
9	2	4	3	7	1	8	5	6
8	5	1	6	4	2	9	3	7

Difficulty Level ★ 1/21

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPALS **Solution: 8 letters**

T	C	O	U	R	S	E	D	E	S	K	E	H	V	T
F	N	B	L	I	P	U	P	A	L	S	L	I	H	N
E	S	E	O	T	G	O	F	E	E	A	O	R	E	E
I	M	D	M	O	U	E	L	U	R	L	R	E	A	S
H	T	I	V	E	K	T	S	I	E	U	C	O	D	E
C	S	E	R	D	V	S	R	N	C	B	T	B	M	R
O	R	N	A	P	I	E	C	U	U	Y	T	U	D	P
N	E	C	D	C	V	E	I	D	S	E	P	I	F	E
D	D	E	E	I	H	E	G	H	O	T	Y	L	E	R
U	R	N	T	M	S	E	D	I	C	E	D	D	E	T
C	O	C	A	A	T	T	R	L	I	A	B	L	E	(H)
T	A	X	C	H	L	H	F	S	A	E	R	R	N	(A)
E	E	C	U	R	R	I	C	U	L	U	M	E	T	(L)
E	M	O	D	E	R	C	C	L	A	S	S	S	E	(L)
N	T	N	E	M	H	S	I	N	U	P	K	N	A	R

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Achievement, Active, Bell, Books, Budget, Build, Career, Case, Chief, Class, Code, Conduct, Course, Curriculum, Decide, Desk, Duty, Educated, Ethics, Exam, Firm, Future, Govern, Hall, Hand, Head, Help, Hire, Issues, Late, Liable, Mode, Moral, Obedience, Orders, Policy, Prime, Punishment, Pupil, Rank, Rely, Represent, Role, Safe, Social, Teachers, Teen, Terms, Trust, Violence

Yesterday's Answer: Particles

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1 ACCOUNTANT (C) (T 3903)
Salary:$3.55-$6.50/hour. Benefits: Medical as provided by law & workmen's compensation. Contact: L&T International Corp. @322-9006/9054/9915.

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1 KITCHEN HELPER (T 3906)
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4 COOK (T 3907)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical provided & workmen's compensation. Contact: Dynamic Core Group, Inc. dba Shirley's Coffee Shop @235-5379.

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1 CASHIER (T 3908)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; free food; free medical & workers compensation. Contact: Sai Chi US Int'l Inc. dba Santa Lourdes Mini-Mart @256-8808.

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1 HEMODIALYSIS TECHNICIAN (T 3909)
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WHATZIT Solution:
Penny-wise, pound-foolish

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2 HEMODIALYSIS TECHNICIAN, LPN (T 3910)
Salary:$7.50-$8.50/hour. Benefits: Employer provided housing; employee provided food; workers compensation; health insurance & 40 hrs. paid sick leave. Contact: St. Jude Renal Care Facility, Inc. @234-2901.

1 REGISTERED NURSE (SUPERVISOR) (T 3911)
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1 ADMINISTRATIVE ASST. (T 3914)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: Medical benefits & workers compensation. Contact: Nenita V. Marquez dba NVM @234-3647.

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2 WAREHOUSE WORKER (T 3915)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Onwel Manufacturing (Saipan), Ltd. @234-9522.

1 DELIVERY DRIVER (T 3916)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Onwel Manufacturing (Saipan), Ltd. @234-9522.

1 COOK (T 3917)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arrange food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by the employer. Contact: Jenner Corporation @287-8181.

1 WAITER/WAITRESS (T 3918)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arrange food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by the employer. Contact: Jenner Corporation dba Saipan Las Vegas Nightclub & Karaoke @287-8181.

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Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arrange food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by the employer. Contact: Yong Shun Corporation @233-3038.

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• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

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As added service to our valued customers, you may now submit all your JVA placements for announcement/publication in *Saipan Tribune's* print and online edition and KZMI/KCNM at the same time. No more worries of having to go to two different locations every time you need to place job vacancy announcements. Special rates are available for JVA customers under this arrangement.

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• 1st position	$10
• 2nd position	$3
• Succeeding positions	$1
Combo (Print and Online)*	
• 1st position	$13
• 2nd position	$4
• Succeeding positions	$2
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• More than 6 positions	$10

LOWER RATES! Effective Feb. 3, 2007

*These rates apply to all vacancy announcements that include corresponding benefits and which announcements are all under the same company name.

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.
- KCNM/KZMI: All ads placed on Friday (9am to 5pm) will be for Monday's radio announcement.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Patriots reach 4th Super Bowl in 7 years

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—"Now we can look ahead." Bill Belichick, a coach of few words, said it all with that sentence after his New England Patriots claimed the AFC championship trophy. Looking ahead means only one thing: A trip to the Super Bowl, and a chance to give their perfect record a whole new meaning.

Despite a shaky Tom Brady, the Patriots were still too much for the banged-up San Diego Chargers, pulling out a 21-12 victory Sunday that sent them back to the NFL title game for the fourth time in seven seasons.

"There was history on the line," Patriots linebacker Tedy Bruschi said. "We recognize it, we acknowledge it."

Brady made several stunningly poor throws that fluttered in the wind, Randy Moss was a non-factor for the second straight game and the highest-scoring team in NFL history sputtered all afternoon. Instead, the Patriots (18-0) relied on Laurence Maroney's spins, cuts and helmet-rattling runs.

With injured Chargers star LaDainian Tomlinson reduced to mostly watching in a parka, the Patriots moved on to a Feb. 3 matchup in Glendale, Ariz., against the New York Giants.

The Giants beat Green Bay 23-20 in overtime for the NFC championship. New England closed out its regular season by beating the Giants in a 38-35 thriller.

Yet for all the Brady Bunch has accomplished - they're the only team in NFL history to start out with 18 straight victories - the Patriots are well aware they must win that final game to avoid being relegated to a footnote.

"We'll try to elevate our game for one last performance," said Brady, MVP in two of the three Super Bowls he's won.

Brady, coming off a record-setting 50 TD passes, threw for two scores. He also tossed a season-high three interceptions.

No matter, New England took care of the nuts and Bolts on a most chilly day. The sellout crowd at Gillette Stadium chanted "Super Bowl! Super Bowl!" in the closing minutes, anticipating the Pats' first appearance in the big game since the 2004 season.

Belichick's team eclipsed the 17-0 mark of the champion 1972 Miami Dolphins, and he'll soon try for his fourth NFL title.

"I think there will be a time to sit back and reflect," Belichick said. "We'll certainly enjoy this for a few days."

Brady earned his 100th career victory and advanced without a hint of girlfriend drama—taking notes, Tony Romo? The dimpled Patriots quarterback will bring true glam to Super Bowl: Imagine the paparazzi buzz if Brady is sighted with Gisele Bundchen.

A model of success in the late season, the Chargers (13-6) fell short minus Tomlinson. He was hurt last week in the playoff upset of the Super Bowl champion Indianapolis Colts, and was mostly a spectator as San Diego's eight-game winning streak ended.

Tomlinson carried on the first two San Diego plays, and did not run it again because of a bad knee. Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers hung in despite a torn ligament in his knee and star tight end Antonio Gates did his best with a dislocated toe.

"From getting it reinjured the first play, I just knew I didn't have it," Tomlinson said. "I'm kind of at a loss for words."

AP

New England Patriots head coach Bill Belichick holds up the Lamar Hunt trophy after winning the AFC Championship football game against the San Diego Chargers in Foxborough, Mass., Sunday, Jan. 20, 2008. The Patriots won 21-12 to advance to the Super Bowl.

San Diego coach Norv Turner needed to improvise without Tomlinson, a two-time rushing champ. Even so, the Chargers never could get into the end zone, and that cost them dearly.

"He really couldn't get started," Turner said. "He went and tried to go and just didn't have the power to push off."

Routed 38-14 at New England in September, the Chargers gave a better performance. They trailed just 14-12 midway in the third quarter this time, but Brady's 6-yard TD pass to Wes Welker early in the fourth period was enough for New England.

Maroney ran for 122 yards to help hold the lead.

"It felt like everything was a struggle today," Brady said. "We didn't perform the way I thought we were capable of."

The Patriots seemed poised to pull away late in the third quarter, but a terrible throw by Brady cost them. On third-and-goal at the 2, Brady tried a touch pass over the middle that NFL interceptions leader Antonio Cromartie easily picked off standing on the New England logo in the end zone.

Nate Kaeding's fourth field goal, a 24-yarder midway through the third period, pulled San Diego to 14-12. Too bad for the Chargers, that was the story of their afternoon—they'd drive close, only to wind up settling for four kicks.

"I think we gave ourself a chance today," Rivers said. "It's unfortunate we couldn't score in the red zone."

Eli, Tynes lift Giants into Super Bowl

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—Eli Manning has arrived, just in time to take his New York Giants on an improbable trip to the Super Bowl. A suddenly matured Manning guided the Giants to their 10th straight road win Sunday, a frostbitten 23-20 overtime victory over the Green Bay Packers for the NFC championship.

Now comes Mission Impossible for Manning and the Giants, who will play the unbeaten New England Patriots in two weeks for the NFL title.

After Lawrence Tynes missed a 36-yard field goal at the end of regulation following a bad snap, he got a reprieve in overtime following Corey Webster's interception of a struggling Brett Favre. He nailed a 47-yarder on his third attempt to win it, then sprinted directly to the locker room as the rest of his frozen teammates celebrated on the field.

"I screwed it up twice," Tynes said. "Thank God we got another opportunity."

The Giants grabbed their first NFC championship in seven years, capping a monthlong surge that reversed a trend of mediocrity built around Manning's inconsistency. He has been a revelation in the playoffs, however, and his calm leadership keyed New York's turnaround.

Manning shook off below-zero temperatures and a wind chill that would make a Siberian husky shiver. He repeatedly put the Giants (13-6) in position to win in the third-coldest championship game ever—and certainly the most frigid of his young career.

And then he saw Tynes make his first game-winning field goal of the season in the first OT title game in nine years.

It was the second NFC title game to go to overtime. Atlanta beat Minnesota 30-27 in 1999.

One year after older brother Peyton finally won a Super Bowl, earning MVP honors to boot, here comes Eli.

Just a month ago, Eli's moxie was being questioned as the Giants struggled to clinch a wild-card berth. He responded with the best work of his four-year career, including four touchdown passes in the season finale against the Patriots.

AP

New York Giants kicker Lawrence Tynes (9) celebrates after kicking the game-winning field goal in overtime during the NFC Championship football game against the Green Bay Packers, Sunday, Jan. 20, 2008, in Green Bay, Wis.

He and the Giants are getting another shot at New England, the first team to go 18-0. The Patriots will be after their fourth Super Bowl title in seven years on Feb. 3 at Glendale, Ariz., as well as the first completely perfect season since Miami went 17-0 in 1972.

But don't discount New York, which led the Patriots by 12 points in the third quarter before falling 38-35 on Dec. 29.

The Giants have won at Tampa and Dallas since, and now at Lambeau Field, where they shut down Brett Favre nearly all game.

Favre, seeking a return to the Super Bowl after a decade's absence, struggled in the minus-3 degree temperature and wind-chills that reached minus-24. He wound up 19-for-35 for 236 yards and two interceptions. The second, by Corey Webster in overtime, set up Tynes' winner.

When Tynes missed a 43-yard field goal with 6:49 remaining, it was just a temporary setback. And when he flopped on the kick that ended regulation, Tynes could only ask for one more try.

Webster gave it to him, and he sent the Giants into the Super Bowl.

New York was aided greatly by four penalties against the Packers during the Giants' seven-minute, 69-yard march to begin the second half. Brandon Jacobs bolted in from about an inch out after successive offside calls just moments after his third-down fumble was recovered by tight end Kevin Boss. But the biggest miscue was Nick Collins' 15-yard roughing-the-passer penalty on Manning, whose throw was blocked on a third-down play.

Jacobs faked a Lambeau Leap after his score, incensing the hardy souls in the full house of 72,470.

They were stamping their frozen feet in delight seconds later when Tramon Williams, seemingly trapped along the left sideline, cut right and returned the kickoff 49 yards to the New York 39. Then it was the Giants' turn to commit a costly, senseless penalty when Sam Madison negated a third-down stop with a personal foul against Vernand Morency.

Favre immediately pounced with a brilliant play-fake that sprung tight end Donald Lee free in the back of the end zone for a 12-yard TD reception and a 17-13 lead.

With the footing holding on a field heated by pipes underneath, Domenik Hixon got the Giants' next scoring drive started with a 33-yard kickoff runback. Then, Manning kept picking apart the Packers' staple man coverage, a 23-yard diving catch by Amani Toomer setting up rookie Ahmad Bradshaw's 4-yard TD run.

Rookie Mason Crosby's 37-yard field goal tied it 20-20 after a huge break for the Packers. Favre's desperation heave was intercepted by R.W. McQuarters deep in New York territory, but he fumbled when he was hit by Grant on his return. Tackle Mark Tauscher recovered, giving the Packers another life.

DJ Trahan surges to Hope Classic victory

PALM DESERT, Calif. (AP)—D.J. Trahan played like the seasoned veteran. The 27-year-old Trahan, who had won just once before, charged from four shots back Sunday to overtake Justin Leonard and win the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic.

The 35-year-old Leonard, whose 11 victories include the 1997 British Open, was the one who faltered.

Trahan shot a sparkling 7-under 65 to beat Leonard by three strokes. The younger player said a four-shot deficit looked imposing heading into the final round of the five-day tournament.

"You certainly don't feel particularly optimistic about it when you're playing against a guy like Justin Leonard," Trahan said. "I wasn't playing against a rookie who was in the lead for the first time.

"He's won a major championship, Ryder Cups. I don't know how many times he's won on tour, but it's definitely more than me."

Leonard closed with a 72 that included a 39 on the back nine at the Classic Club. He still was only one shot behind before his drive went into the water on No. 18 to end his chances.

"I played solid the first eight holes, was 3 under," he said. "Obviously D.J. was playing very well. I just didn't get that (good play) to the back nine and he did. That was the difference.

"To have a four-shot lead and come out and play as well as I did the first eight holes, and lose a golf tournament is disappointing.'

Trahan birdied the final hole to finish the 90-hole tournament at 26-under 334 for his biggest payday, $918,000, and the right to play in this year's Masters. It will be his second trip to Augusta; he missed the cut as an amateur in 2001.

Leonard, who last year failed to make the cut in his first six events, including the Hope, began playing well in July and finished the season strong. So he wasn't discouraged by his runner-up finish this early in the season.

"I get some perspective in the fact that at this time last year, I was pretty lost," he said. "That gives me a bit of comfort, but still it only takes a little bit of the sting out of it, not all of it."

Kenny Perry, the 1995 Hope champion, and 22-year-old Anthony Kim, who played high school golf in nearby La Quinta, shot 69s to tie for third at 338.

Trahan turned what had threatened to be a runaway into a duel when he picked up four shots over three holes beginning at No. 9. He sank an 8-footer birdie putt on the ninth hole, rolled in a 40-footer from the fringe for another birdie on the 10th, then parred the 11th while Leonard went par-bogey-bogey.

Trahan took the lead for good with an 8-footer for birdie on No. 14 to go to 25 under. He capped his round with a 5-foot birdie putt on No. 18 while Leonard took a bogey 6.

Trahan finished as the best putter in the tournament, averaging 26 putts per round.

"Pardon me for smiling, but I've never heard anybody tell me that before," said Trahan, who normally isn't known for his putting.

A former Clemson All-American, Trahan got his first tour win at Madison, Miss., in 2006.

The first four days of the Hope are a pro-am played over four courses. The low-scoring 70 pros and ties played the final round at the Classic Club.

AP

D.J. Trahan, from Mt. Pleasant, S.C., holds his trophy after winning the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic golf tournament at Classic Club golf course in Palm Desert, Calif., Sunday, Jan. 20, 2008.

Suns win 14th in row at home over Nets

PHOENIX (AP)—Amare Stoudemire had 28 points and the Phoenix Suns made it 14 in a row at home over New Jersey by routing the Nets 116-92 on Sunday night. Raja Bell added 20 points, including 5-of-10 3-pointers. New Jersey hasn't won in Phoenix since March 13, 1993.

Six players, including all five starters, scored in double figures for the Suns. Shawn Marion had 16 points and 11 rebounds and matched his season-high with five steals. Boris Diaw had 14 points, 10 rebounds and six assists.

Steve Nash had 13 points and nine assists and Leandro Barbosa added 12 points as Phoenix matched its season high of five straight home wins.

Richard Jefferson scored 24 for the Nets, who were playing for the second night in a row. They lost 120-107 in overtime to the Clippers in Los Angeles on Thursday night.

Phoenix led by as many as 18 points in the first half and was up by 11 at the break. The closest New Jersey got in the second half was nine.

The Suns took a 35-20 lead after one quarter and were up 38-20 when Barbosa opened the second quarter with one of Phoenix's 12 3-pointers - in 29 attempts. After the Nets cut it to 12, Phoenix scored six straight, capped by Bell's 3 to go up 54-36 with 2:49 left in the half.

New Jersey, though, scored the next seven, and Jefferson's three-point play cut the lead to 54-43 1:33 from the break. Phoenix led 56-45 at halftime. The Suns were 8-for-17 from 3-point range in the first half, compared with New Jersey's 1-for-7.

Jason Kidd's 20-footer brought the Nets as close as they would get, 65-56, with 7:39 left in the third. Stoudemire, though, scored the next six points to boost the lead to 71-56 on his emphatic driving dunk over Sean Williams.

In all, Stoudemire scored 10 consecutive Phoenix points. His dunk on a feed from Nash made it 73-60 with 5:53 left in the third. The Suns ended the quarter with a 7-2 spurt, the final two on Barbosa's 22-footer with 5.8 seconds left, and led 89-73 entering the fourth.

New Jersey never got closer than 14 after that. Another Stoudemire stuff put Phoenix ahead 100-79 with 6:10 remaining.

Venus joins Serena in Aussie quarters

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Venus Williams reached the Australian Open quarterfinals for the first time in five years, beating Poland's Marta Domachowska 6-4, 6-4 on Monday at Melbourne Park. The Wimbledon champion will face fourth-ranked Ana Ivanovic in the quarterfinals.

Williams, in her first tournament since withdrawing from the season-ending champion at Madrid in November due to illness, lost the 2003 Australian final to sister Serena and hadn't gone beyond the fourth round in the season-opening major since.

Venus Williams has six Grand Slam singles titles, but her run to the 2003 final remains her best performance in Australia.

"I have come close, then this girl named Williams took my dream away," Venus said of her Australian aspirations.

Serena Williams, the defending Australian champion, moved into the quarterfinals on Sunday along with top-ranked Justine Henin and fifth-seeded Maria Sharapova, a finalist last year.

Serena will play No. 3 Jelana Jankovic, and Henin will face Sharapova.

Ivanovic had a 6-1, 7-6 (2) win earlier Monday over Denmark's Caroline Wozniacki. Ivanovic didn't have a single winner in the first set and won just 10 of 25 points on her serve as she dropped serve three times.

"I have a lot of respect for her, she is a great person," Williams said of Ivanovic.

With sister Serena shouting encouragement, Williams had her hands full with Domachowska.

Far from being intimidated by Williams' power, Domachowska matched it with her own—she had aces on three of her first five serves - along with a variety of spins.

Williams often found herself on the defensive as Domachowska swung for winners at every opportunity.

Williams' right thigh was strapped, and Domachowska gave it a workout, keeping her constantly sprinting from side to side. Williams had to fight back twice from service breaks in the first set, getting back on serve when Domachowska double-faulted on break point, then took the set when the Polish woman netted a straightforward forehand volley.

Williams got the first break of the second set to pull ahead 5-3. Domachowska fended off a match point before breaking back.

Domachowska set up a second match point for Williams with one error while serving 30-30 in the next game, then netted a forehand to finish it off.

"It's good, it gets me ready for the rounds going forward," Williams said of the close match.

Henin beat Taiwan's Hsieh Su-wei on Sunday and now will put her 32-match winning streak on the line against Sharapova in their first meeting since the season-ending championship final in Madrid.

Sharapova pounded fellow Russian Elena Dementieva 6-2, 6-0, breaking the 11th-ranked player in six of her seven service games, including one at love to finish off the match in 62 minutes.

"Justine's the one to beat," Sharapova said. "She's on a pretty good winning streak, but every match is new.

"The one in Madrid was tough but physically she got me in the end—she was tougher than I was in the end. But I had many chances and I was very close to winning."

Sharapova was seeded No. 1 last year when Henin skipped the season-opening major because she was going through a divorce. The Russian star lost to Serena Williams in a lopsided final.

Serena Williams advanced to the quarterfinals with a 6-3, 6-4 over No. 11 Nicole Vaidisova, while Jankovic beat Australia's Casey Dellacqua 7-6 (3), 6-1.

Henin won the Sydney International title in the leadup to the Australian Open, beating second-ranked Svetlana Kuznetsova in the final, and has added wins over Aiko Nakamura, Olga Poutchkova and No. 25 Francesca Schiavone at Melbourne Park.

Sharapova has not dropped a set in wins over Jelena Tosic Kostanic, former No. 1-ranked Lindsay Davenport, Elena Vesnina and Dementieva.

No. 2 Rafael Nadal also advanced to the quarterfinals in straight sets, including an abbreviated 6-3, 3-0 win in the fourth round when Paul-Henri Mathieu withdrew because of an injured left leg late Sunday.

Nadal's match was over at 10:30 p.m. at Rod Laver Arena on Sunday after he won 11 of 12 points to open the second set.

"I was playing well today, maybe I was playing my best tennis in Australia this year," said Nadal, the three-time French Open champion. "I'm happy to be in the quarterfinals—would have preferred not like this."

The last match the previous night did not start until 11:47 p.m. and Lleyton Hewitt finally beat 2006 runner-up Marcos Baghdatis in five sets at 4:33 a.m on Sunday.

Even Roger Federer was taken to five sets Saturday—the first in six years in the first week of a Grand Slam event—against Serbian Janko Tisparevic.

Top-ranked Federer, chasing his third consecutive Australian title and 13th major, faces his first seeded rival when he takes on No. 13 Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic later Monday.

James Blake faced Marin Cilic, and Hewitt met No. 3 Novak Djokovic in a night match.

David Nalbandian and Juan Carlos Ferrero stepped back on the same court to begin the Sunday schedule little more than six hours after Hewitt and Baghdatis walked off.

Former No. 1 Ferrero beat 10th-seeded Nalbandian 6-1, 6-2, 6-3.

Miracle ride goes on, Coca-Cola makes it to quarters

MANILA, Philippines—Coca-Cola's magic carpet ride goes on.

At the expense of the Air21 Express, whom the Tigers beat 109-102 Sunday evening to advance to the quarterfinals of the 2007-08 Smart PBA Philippine Cup at the Cuneta Astrodome.

For the second time in three games, Asi Taulava came up big for Coca-Cola and eased the team's passage to a best-of-three pairing with Alaska starting Wednesday.

The other quarters match-up pits Red Bull and Magnolia, also at the same Pasay City venue.

"We are a blessed team," said Coke coach Binky Favis after his team's seventh win in its last 10 games, the last two both do-or-die games. "We are so blessed just having an opportunity to be in a position to fight in the quarterfinals, after the rough road we had to go through. All we asked for was a chance and this is a gift, a blessing."

Nino Canaleta had 21 points to lead Air21, which deposed last year's champion Barangay Ginebra last Friday with a 119-110 win.

Sunday evening, the Tigers had more fangs and definitely more grit than the Express, leading by as many as 21 points before holding off the Express' determined rally down the stretch.

Favis said it was by design as his team made its first quarterfinals appearance since the 2006 edition of the same tournament.

"We all wanted to be committed, play hard Tiger basketball and if that's what it takes to get into the quarterfinals, then so be it," he said. "My players gave it all they've got and when you do that, sometimes you get lucky. Today we did."

John Arigo led all scorers with 23 points in just 15 minutes, but it was Taulava who shone the brightest when Air21 closed to within 95-99 in the last 3:20 of the game.

Taulava scattered seven f his 17 points in that stretch, including three straight free throws and a short stab that made it a 105-99 count, only 27 ticks left.

Arwind Santos' triple made it a 102-105 game but his two flubbed charities and a missed triple proved costly and Ronjay Buenafe and Alex Cabagnot made the Express pay for their fouling spree by converting the free throws that sealed the game.

Taulava also wound up with 12 rebounds, three assists and two steals, prompting recollections of his two games that helped ninth-ranked Coca-Cola topple sixth seed Talk N Text last week.

Favis related his prized center and the rest of his players didn't seem to have it in them to come up with a sustaining attack, much less a finishing kick.

"In the first four minutes of the game, I saw my players puffing and I thought it was too early in the game to be tired. But they were really tired," he said.

But the Tigers, mainly through Cabagnot and Aris Dimaunahan, still managed to take the opening perod, 26-21, and then padded it to as much as 21 points, the last at 47-26.

Air21 still clung on at 74-84 before fully coming alive and unleashing a 9-2 run that brought the Express tantalizingly close.

Favis now looks forward to the series against Alaska, a team Coke has not beaten yet in the season.

"Alaska is definitely a tough team," he assessed. "It's playing its best basketball the last few years and it's gonna be a tough match-up. ***(www.pba.com.ph)***

AQUA

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game into their favor.

PIC last threatened at 65-70 halfway in the fourth quarter but Sanciangco and his crew had other plans and used a 10-3 spurt to put the game away.

Sanciangco also had six rebounds, two assists, and three steals, while Esdrelon netted 23 points, had four rebounds, issued six assists, and had three steals. Opone finished with 10 points, eight rebounds, and four assists.

Derrick Tudela carried the fight for PIC ending up with 17 points and 10 rebounds while Richard Pambid, Marino Pungilug, and Raymund Tolentino chipped in 13, 12, and 11 markers, respectively.

First Game

Hafadai Beach Hotel 83 – Bamba 35, Olaitmian 24, Bacolod 9, Nedlic 7, Calayag 6, Mendoza 2.

Saipan World Resort 81 – Vinas 27, Caruana 13, Mangahis 10, Ramos 9, Gayo 7, Paras 5, Navarro 4, Hamoy 2, Hamoy 2,Valle 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-15, 33-36, 63-56, 83-81.

Second Game

Aqua Resort Club 85 – Barbo 19, Gapor 19, Carasig 14, Achas 9, Johannes 9, Takahashi 6, Alcantara 3, Calvo 3, Torres 3.

Aquarius Beach Tower 75 – Bahillo 29, Pareo 20, Trajano 8, Alvarez 4, Rapanut 4, Sese 4, Brien 2, Sarmiento 2.

Scoring by quarters: 27-15, 47-31, 63-45, 85-75.

Third Game

APHI 86 – Sanciangco 34, Esdrelon 23, Opone 10, Alegre 9, Dela Torre 6, David 2, Manglona 2.

Pacific Islands Club 73 – Tudela 17, Pambid 13, Pungilug 12, Tolentino 11, Abuy 7, Kaipat 6, Fernandez 2, Lee 2, Valdez 2, Patricio 1.

Scoring by quarters: 18-15, 40-23, 57-52, 86-73.

MARIANAS

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Other local runners that joined were Kevin Carey (1:50.23); Bae Keum Ji (1:52.56); Michael Johnson (1:56.39); Fred Camacho (2:00.53); Florian Braig (2:01.24); Joshua Berger (2:01.27); and Robert Schultz (2:03.29).

Pedro Villaga (2:05.14); Daniel Calvo (2:11.12); Hong Jae Lee (2:13.07); Manny Sitchon (2:14.35); former Gov. Juan N. Babauta (2:15.27); Chan Wang Jang (2:15.28); Brad Ruszala (2:18.13); and Izumi Yamaguchi (2:34.37) also took part in the race.

In the women's Division, 18-year-old Atkinson was fifth overall and first female finisher completing the 13.1-mile run in 1:37.47. Longtime Saipan residents Akiko Hagiwara and Maimi Shimizu, who are both from Japan, finished second and third, respectively.

Hagiwara was the best female runner from Saipan with a time of 1:39.22 while the 31-year old Shimizu clocked in at 1:41.41 to finish third.

Mieko Carey, who is a permanent fixture in various running and triathlon races finished with the sixth best time of 1:46.49 as she continues her preparation for the upcoming Saipan Sportsfest in March.

Other Saipan ladies that joined were Pascale Harvey (1:51.22); Elizabeth Church (1:59.58); Christine Taitano (2:01.31); Ericka Frink (2:02.33); Laura Shevy (2:04.47); Dawn Hammermeister (2:05.16); Kimiko Hasegawa (2:09.05); Patricia Taitano (2:09.20); Kanae Quinn (2:18.44); and Tina Goodwin (2:18.45).

A total of 230 runners from Japan, Guam, Saipan, and Tinian joined Saturday's race with 47 conquering the full marathon course, while 73 opted to choose to run in the scaled-down course.

The race is held in cooperation with Marianas Visitors Authority, Northern Marianas Athletics, Northwest Airlines, Excite.com, and Oakley.

PIXLEY

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Garapan Fishing Base to Kilili Beach pavilion.

The top finishers received special gift items, while organizers also raffled off other prizes donated by their generous sponsors.

Organizers Sean and Barbara Maycock said aside from commemorating the contributions of the great civil rights leader, the fun run is also a fundraising event for the class' trip to New Zealand.

The 8th grade class is raising funds for its annual class trip. In the past, classes have visited Japan, the Philippines, Bali, Australia, Palau, Hawaii, Thailand, Singapore, and South Korea.

"This is the second year that the eighth grade class held a fundraising event like this. The fundraising is for the class' educational trip to New Zealand," said Barbara, who added the class will go to New Zealand during the spring break from March 21 to 28.

Barbara, who is also SDA's principal, said that the class only needs $2,000 more to complete the money that will help fund their educational trip to New Zealand.

The students will spend several weeks learning about the geography, history, and culture of New Zealand before traveling to the island nation to learn about and experience the land of the Kiwis firsthand.

Sean said they decided to make the Freedom Run an annual event to recognize and raise awareness on the significant contributions by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"To celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King's impact to our society. He is part of the world's history and his contributions are up to now relevant at our time," Sean said after the event.

He said next year they will be recording the times of participants.

The first Freedom Run was held last year on Martin Luther King Jr. Day and the funds raised from that event helped the students at SDA take a class trip to Singapore in March 2007.

TICKETS

From Page 28

ing event.

Rites of Passage is the proving grounds for up-and-coming young warriors who want to test their MMA skills in front of a smaller crowd and see whether they could make it to big no-holds barred fights inside the octagon.

Rookie warriors who win their fights would get the chance to earn an invitation to Trench Warz VIII, which is tentatively set on June 8.

Sign up sheets in all weight categories for Rites of Passage IV are now available at the Trench Tech Gym. Registration forms can be picked up from Monday to Friday from 5pm to 8pm.

For more information, call Alvarez at 483-4MMA or 483-4662.

After the Rites of Passage IV, Alvarez will hold another All-Island Grappling/Submission Tournament on April 26, which is similar to the "Art of War" All Island Grappling/Submission Challenge.

Trench Warz VIII will be held on June 8 at the Royal Taga Hall at the Saipan World Resort, while Rites of Passage returns for its fifth event on Sept. 27 at the Trench Tech Gym.

The MMA fight season ends with Trench Warz IX on Dec. 6 again at the Royal Taga Hall at the Saipan World Resort. The dates are subject to change since it is only a tentative schedule.

NMI Crime Stoppers Softball this weekend

The 6th Annual NMI Crime Stoppers Softball tournament will be held this coming weekend, Jan. 26 and 27, at the Dandan Softball Field.

According to NMI Crime Stoppers chairman Jim Arenovski, the 2008 edition of the softball tournament-with-a-cause will feature an eight-team double-elimination format.

Arenovski encouraged interested teams to sign up as soon as possible for the tournament as spots are going quickly.

"We currently have five spots that have sponsors who are looking for teams, so if you want to play, your entry fee is already paid for. This year we will also be supplying the T-shirt uniforms for sponsored teams requiring them," he said.

To sign up and secure your place in the 6th Annual NMI Crime Stoppers Softball, contact James Matsumoto at 235-6030. ***(Mark Rabago)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	32	6	.842	–
Toronto	22	19	.537	11 1/2
New Jersey	18	22	.450	15
Philadelphia	16	25	.390	17 1/2
New York	13	27	.325	20

Southeast Division

Orlando	25	17	.595	–
Washington	21	17	.553	2
Atlanta	17	19	.472	5
Charlotte	16	24	.400	8
Miami	8	31	.205	15 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	29	12	.707	–
Cleveland	21	18	.538	7
Indiana	18	23	.439	11
Chicago	16	23	.410	12
Milwaukee	16	24	.400	12 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	27	12	.692	–
New Orleans	27	12	.692	–
San Antonio	25	13	.658	1 1/2
Houston	21	19	.525	6 1/2
Memphis	11	29	.275	16 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	24	15	.615	–
Portland	24	16	.600	1/2
Utah	23	18	.561	2
Seattle	9	31	.225	15 1/2
Minnesota	5	34	.128	19

Pacific Division

Phoenix	29	12	.707	–
L.A. Lakers	26	12	.684	1 1/2
Golden State	25	17	.595	4 1/2
Sacramento	17	22	.436	11
L.A. Clippers	12	24	.333	14 1/2

Yesterday's Game

Phoenix 116, New Jersey 92

BOB HOPE CHRYSLER CLASSIC SCORES

Final Round

D.J. Trahan (4500), $918,000	67-64-68-70-65	334
Justin Leonard (2700), $550,800	68-64-67-66-72	337
Anthony Kim (1450), $295,800	69-67-67-66-69	338
Kenny Perry (1450), $295,800	66-72-65-66-69	338
Chez Reavie (913), $186,150	69-68-67-70-65	339
Ryan Moore (913), $186,150	75-64-67-67-66	339
Steve Elkington (913), $186,150	66-68-69-67-69	339
Vaughn Taylor (700), $142,800	70-68-68-69-66	341
Charley Hoffman (700), $142,800	68-72-71-63-67	341
Boo Weekley (700), $142,800	69-70-62-69-71	341
Brett Rumford (700), $142,800	67-68-69-67-70	341
Robert Allenby (506), $103,275	73-69-68-64-68	342
Dustin Johnson (506), $103,275	67-69-72-63-71	342
Nicholas Thompson (506), $103,275	68-70-68-66-70	342
Ben Crane (506), $103,275	66-69-69-67-71	342
Bart Bryant (363), $73,950	71-69-68-67-68	343
John Merrick (363), $73,950	73-65-67-68-70	343
Bill Haas (363), $73,950	69-68-69-68-69	343
Ryuji Imada (363), $73,950	71-68-67-67-70	343
Shane Bertsch (363), $73,950	70-71-64-66-72	343
Robert Gamez (363), $73,950	66-65-67-71-74	343
Charlie Wi (250), $51,000	68-68-74-67-67	344
Jason Bohn (250), $51,000	66-74-66-69-69	344
John Senden (250), $51,000	68-73-66-68-69	344
Scott Verplank (250), $51,000	70-65-70-68-71	344
Brian Davis (193), $39,270	72-69-69-67-68	345
Stewart Cink (193), $39,270	68-71-66-71-69	345
Bubba Watson (193), $39,270	70-71-66-72-66	345
Y.E. Yang (159), $32,428	71-70-67-69-69	346
Steve Marino (159), $32,428	72-71-68-66-69	346
Olin Browne (159), $32,428	68-68-75-68-67	346
Jesper Parnevik (159), $32,428	67-74-66-68-71	346
Charles Warren (159), $32,428	74-69-65-67-71	346
Matt Jones (159), $32,428	70-70-68-66-72	346
Mathew Goggin (129), $26,265	65-73-69-69-71	347
Frank Lickliter II (129), $26,265	72-69-68-69-69	347
Michael Allen (129), $26,265	69-71-70-69-68	347
Brian Gay (105), $21,420	71-67-71-68-71	348
Rich Beem (105), $21,420	72-72-68-66-70	348
Joe Durant (105), $21,420	65-73-71-69-70	348
Johnson Wagner (105), $21,420	67-71-73-65-72	348
Jin Park (105), $21,420	69-74-66-70-69	348
Tommy Armour III (105), $21,420	70-71-70-68-69	348
Rod Pampling (76), $15,419	71-70-67-69-72	349
Jeff Maggert (76), $15,419	70-71-70-66-72	349
Heath Slocum (76), $15,419	69-70-72-65-73	349
Steve Flesch (76), $15,419	72-69-69-65-74	349
Tim Petrovic (76), $15,419	65-70-68-72-74	349
Ryan Armour (76), $15,419	70-75-68-67-69	349
Tom Scherrer (60), $12,206	71-70-66-69-74	350
Brad Adamonis (60), $12,206	68-70-69-72-71	350
Kyle Thompson (60), $12,206	68-67-72-72-71	350
Jeff Quinney (60), $12,206	66-69-73-72-70	350
J.J. Henry (60), $12,206	71-72-69-69-69	350
Chad Campbell (60), $12,206	76-68-69-68-69	350
Mike Weir (56), $11,373	70-70-68-70-73	351
Paul Claxton (56), $11,373	70-73-68-69-71	351
Kevin Sutherland (56), $11,373	70-71-71-68-71	351
Joe Ogilvie (56), $11,373	71-70-67-73-70	351
Martin Laird (56), $11,373	71-69-71-70-70	351
Fred Couples (56), $11,373	69-73-71-68-70	351
Chris Stroud (53), $10,863	70-71-69-70-72	352
Shaun Micheel (53), $10,863	72-71-67-70-72	352
Lucas Glover (53), $10,863	70-71-69-71-71	352
Patrick Sheehan (53), $10,863	73-71-72-65-71	352
Kevin Na (51), $10,455	69-69-70-69-76	353
Justin Bolli (51), $10,455	72-71-69-67-74	353
Brett Wetterich (51), $10,455	71-71-67-72-72	353
Michael Letzig (51), $10,455	68-75-67-71-72	353
Jason Gore (49), $9,996	71-72-69-68-74	354
Woody Austin (49), $9,996	68-72-73-67-74	354
Mark Brooks (49), $9,996	71-70-70-70-73	354
Paul Goydos (49), $9,996	72-70-71-68-73	354
Scott McCarron (49), $9,996	68-74-70-69-73	354
Kevin Stadler (47), $9,639	72-69-68-71-75	355
Ken Duke (47), $9,639	67-70-69-74-75	355

- FedExCup points in parentheses

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

HANMI Cup Standings

ARC	4	0
APHI	3	1
Hafa Adai	2	2
Hyatt	1	1
PIC	1	2
World Resort	1	3
Aquarius	0	3

19 triathletes so far confirmed for Tagaman

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The 19th Tagaman Triathlon set for this coming March so far has 19 confirmed participants headlined by no less than last year's champions Andrew Noble of Australia and Julie Dibens of England.

Noble will be coming from his training base in Massachusetts, while Dibens is joined by fellow Brit and almost namesake, Hans Diebens.

While Noble is so far the only triathlete from the Land Down Under to sign up, other countries are well represented in the initial batch of participants.

Saipan triathletes head the list with five (Gabbie Owens, Lewie Tenorio, Kimiko Hasegawa, Eli Torgeson, and John Jones) followed by triathletes from the United States with four so far (Sydney Winlock, Michael Lindeman, and Thomas and Stephanie Alcivar).

Three triathletes from neighboring Guam and the same number from Japan have also so far confirmed their participation. The Guam participants are Altamar Hernan, John Frias, and Michael McDonald, while participants hailing from the Land of the Rising Sun are Jessica Cutrera, Eberle Funches, and Taro Maido.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Julie Dibens of Great Britain, left, and Andrew Noble of Australia cross the finish line at the American Memorial Park in last year's 18th Tagaman Triathlon.

The lone triathlete from New Zealand that has signed up so far is John Mezger.

Noble and Dibbens won the region's longest-running triathlon last March 24. Noble had a time of 2:52:24, while Dibbens recorded 3:04:07.

The 19th Tagaman Triathlon will be held on March 15, 2008. The 2-kilometer swim, 60-kim bike, and 15-km run Tagaman begins at Pacific Islands Club and traverses the entire 15-mile length of the island.

The Tagaman is part of the annual Saipan Sportsfest and is a held a week after the 7th Annual XTERRA Saipan Championship on March 8, 2008

Aside form the Tagaman and XTERRA, the 2008 Saipan Sportfest will also feature the annual Sophia Walk, an XTERRA bike race, and Taga Kids.

For more information about the 19th Tagaman Triathlon, contact the Marianas Visitors Authority at 664-3200/01. Both the MVA and Taga Inc. are organizing this year's Saipan Sportsfest.

Budweiser King of the Lanes this Jan. 27 and 28

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The first-ever Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes on Saipan will be held this coming Sunday and Monday, Jan. 27 and 28, at the Saipan Bowling Center in San Jose.

After being sponsor-less for the whole of 2007, the Saipan Bowling Association's monthly King and Queen of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament as well as its season-ending bowlfest has secured the help of MARPAC for this year's competition.

The two-day Budweiser January King and Queen of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament is exclusive for SBA members with participants limited to the first 60 entries for each day.

Sunday's roll-off would begin as early as 3:30pm, while Monday's competition, starts at 6:30pm. Registration starts 30 minutes prior to game time. Awarding ceremonies immediately follow the end of competition on Monday.

Members have the option to bowl on the Sunday or Monday, or on both days, provided that the $15 entry fee is paid. Bowlers who did not bowl on Sunday will be given priority for the Monday shift. Only the higher score will count for the tournament. All participants have to pay the $15 SBA annual membership fee.

The champion is guaranteed $100 in prize money but it could go up to as much $150 depending on the number of participants. Women participants will only have separate prizes if there are at least 10 entries.

Youth bowlers (12 to 19 years old, not bowling in any leagues or averaging less than 160 in any league) will only bowl on Sunday for the Prince and Princess of the Lanes. Entry fee is $10.

The Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes Tournament aims to crown 12 monthly champions through the course of the year.

For early registration and payment for the January tournaments, see or contact Gigi Zapanta at 288-5627or e-mail zapanta@pticom.com.

MARK RABAGO
Jon Hensley, 2007 King of the Lanes champion, is flanked by runners-up Ador Dimaano, left, and Raymond Zapanta after the seaon-ending roll-off last Jan. 13 at the Capital Bowling Center in Garapan. Budweiser will sponsor this year's competition.

Junior golfer wins RGA January Ace

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Junior golfer Luis Byun topped a 16-man field in last Sunday's Refaluwasch Golf Association January Ace of the Month Tournament held at the Marianas Country Club.

Byun used his 12-handicap to the hilt after shooting a gross of 78 following twin 39s in the front and back nines. His 66 net was three strokes better than the 69s registered by Jess Wabol and Asterio Tawanpiy.

Wabol, however, wound up in second place after beating Tawanpiy in a tiebreak based on the front nine net, 34-35.

The former Oleai Elementary School principal and current RGA tournament director fired a tournament-best pre-handicap score of 69 after taming the greens and fairways of the Marpi golf course with a 34 in the front nine and 35 in the back.

Unfortunately for the many time CNMI National Golf Team member, his zero handicap didn't allow him to get ahead of Byun.

Tawanpiy, for his part, fired a 42 in the first nine holes and a 41 in the final nines holes to finish with a gross of 83. That, however, was trimmed down to the slim 69 after the son of Micronesia's master navigator got help from his 14 handicap.

Joe Saures and Nick Sablan finished tied for fourth place with identical 70s. The former, however, took the $50 prize money after nosing out the latter in the tiebreak.

The 18-handicap Saures shot a gross of 88 (45-43), while Sablan, the captain of the 2003 Suva South Pacific Games National Golf Team, finished with a gross of 75 (37-38). Sablan is a 5-handicap golfer.

Other weekend warriors that took on the challenge last Sunday were Ed "Doi" Tenorio (71 net), 2007 RGA Club Champion Andy Nepaial (71), Bae Yong Man (71), Bill Kaipat (72), Gus Pangelinan (73), Jess K. Wabol (74), Joe Wabol (75), RGA president Adam Hardwicke (77), Louie Tilipao (77), Richard Pierce (77), and John Mettao (78).

In the closest to the pin competition, Byun was without peer in hole No. 6, while hole No. 7 belonged to the unflappable Hardwicke.

RGA also welcomed new members Byun, Pangelinan, and Bae during the January tournament.

For more information about RGA and other competitions held by the club, contact RGA president Adam Hardwicke at 483-2926 or tournament director Jess Wabol, at 233-3673.

Marianas Coffee Run set for this Saturday

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Following last weekend's "2008 Festival of Runs," athletes who are still looking for a quick fix for their insatiable running addiction can tackle the Inaugural Marianas Coffee Trail Run set for this Saturday, Jan. 26.

The 12-kilometer event will feature the first on- and off-road running streak that will provide interested individuals with amazing views of the Saipan Lagoon, challenging terrain, and will pass through some of the oldest wild coffee trees that are still growing on the slopes of Mt. Tapochao.

The Inaugural Marianas Coffee Trail Run is organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority and will start 6:30am at Micro Beach. Registration will take place at the same location starting at 5:45am.

The course will start at the American Memorial Park and will head straight up to the Navy Hill road up and around Mt. Tapochao, the highest point of the island, down to Capital Hill and back to American Memorial Park.

The cut-off time for runners of the Inaugural Marianas Coffee Trail Run is three hours and 30 minutes. There will be five to six aid stations along the course.

Entrance fee is $30 for all interested participants. T-shirts and a mini island-style barbecue banquet will take place at 12noon at the Micro Beach Pavillion.

Award prizes will be given to the first, second, and third-place male and female participants.

For more information about the Inaugural Marianas Coffee Trail Run, contact Ed Diaz at 664-3210 or email at ediaz@mymarianas.com.

As its name already suggests, the Inaugural Marianas Coffee Trail Run is sponsored by Marianas Coffee Co.

The company was founded by husband-and-wife Chuck and Ann Jordan in 2003. The company now supplies coffee beans to all of the major island hotels except one. It also distributes beans to some of Saipan's best coffee shops. Marianas Coffee also sells its product at DFS Galleria and ABC retail stores.

19 triathletes so far confirmed for Tagaman

The 19th Tagaman Triathlon set for this coming March so far had 19 confirmed participants headlined by no less than last year' champions Andrew Noble of Australia and Julie Dibens of England.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Patriots reach 4th Super Bowl in 7 years

"Now we can look ahead." Bill Belichick, a coach of few words, said it all with that sentence after his New England Patriots claimed the AFC championship trophy.

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Aqua nails 3rd win APHI survives PIC

Elmer Esdrelon of Asia Pacific Hotel Inc. dribbles past Pacific Islands Club's Derrick Tudela in their 2nd Annual HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball League game last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

JON PEREZ

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Aqua Resort Club nailed its third straight win, while Asia Pacific Hotel Inc. survived a last-minute rally by Pacific Islands Club as action in the HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball League resumed Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Aqua Resort scored an 85-75 win over Aquarius Beach Tower to remain undefeated, while APHI defeated PIC, 86-73. In the first game, Hafadai Beach Hotel eked out an 83-81 triumph over Saipan World Resort.

Darwin Barbo and Gil Gapor scored 19 points each to lead Aqua Resort to victory, while Kohjie Carasig chipped in 14 more.

Aquarius rallied back from several 18-point deficits but time was not on their side. They managed to trim Aqua Resort's double-digit advantage to only six points with 45 seconds left in the contest.

Aqua Resort wisely used up the clock and made several key hits as the seconds ticked away for the final tally.

Jason Bahillo paced Aquarius with 29 points, while George Barbo added 20 markers.

Ric Brien, who previously finished in double figures for Aquarius, had an off night and was held to only two points.

Earlier, Marlon Bamba tallied 35 points, grabbed 15 rebounds, and blocked four shots to lead Hafadai to an 83-81 win over Saipan World Resort. Michael Olaitiman supported him with 24 points and five assists.

Dennis Vinas' 27 points led World Resort's losing cause. Rogel Caruana scored 13 points and had nine rebounds, while Jerryfel Mangahis netted 10 markers and had six steals.

APHI pulled off the needed stops in the final four minutes of the game to secure an 86-73 win over PIC in the nightcap.

Ryan Sanciangco scored 11 of his 34 points in the fourth quarter to help APHI preserve the win.

Sanciangco together with Elmer Esdrelon's steady hands at the free throw line and William Opone's second chance points ended PIC's bid to turn the

See AQUA on Page 26

Marianas runners win Half Marathon

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Eli Torgeson of Saipan raises his arms in victory after completing Saturday's 13.1-mile long 26th Annual Half Marathon at Micro Beach.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Saipan's Eli Torgeson and Guam's Amy Atkinson carried the fight for the Marianas after making their respective islands proud by winning the 26th Half Marathon held last Saturday from Micro Beach at the American Memorial Park.

Toregeson, back from a month-long holiday break, was the fastest among the 72 runners that joined the early morning run from Micro Beach to San Antonio and back.

Though the Commonwealth Health Center anesthesiologist failed to beat the 2003 course record of one hour, 17 minutes, and 46 seconds set by Tuyoshi Kaburaki, his time of 1:21 was still the best among the 38 male runners that completed the 13.1-mile race.

Two Japanese followed shortly after Torgeson touched the tape with Uryu Hideaki, 1:34.56, coming in second place while compatriot Shoji Tsushima placed third with a time of 1:36.22.

Amando Danao was the second best finisher among 18 other local runners, which included 16-year-old Matthew Mancao, who joined the race. He came in fourth with a time of 1:37.08, just 46 seconds behind Tsushima's time.

Dirk Sharer posted the sixth's best time with 1:40.11, while Mancao, who suffered from cramps after crossing the finish line, came in at 1:43.22. Triathlon enthusiast Lewie Tenorio finished ninth, posting a personal best time of 1:47.38 in a long-distance running event, while returning John Douglas registered a time of 1:48.59.

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Tickets out for Rites of Passage

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Tickets are already available for Rites of Passage IV: The Uproar and fight fans can purchase them at Boarderline, Da Rocksteady Shop, and the Trench Tech Purebred Saipan Gym.

Fight organizer Cuki Alvarez said only 400 tickets are printed for the Feb. 16 event so he is advising mixed martial arts fans could secure theirs. Tickets are sold at $20.

The fight event will take place at the Trench Tech Gym from 6pm to 11pm where 16 to 18 no-holds barred bouts are lined up.

Alvarez said SaipanCell Communications will be giving away a cell phone during the raffle.

Alvarez is still finalizing the fight card and is inviting all fight clubs and mixed martial arts teams and gyms to sign up their fighters for the upcom-

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Pixley and Carey top MLK Freedom Run

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

One day after Saipan's biggest running event, Steven Pixley and Mieko Carey were at it again, this time ruling the 2nd Annual Freedom Run held yesterday in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Times were not recorded since the five-kilometer fun run was merely a fundraising event for Seventh Day Adventist School's eighth grade class.

Pixley led a pack of 38 other participants from the starting point at Garapan Fishing Base and was first to reach the finish line at Kilili Beach Park.

Carey finished closely behind Pixley and was the top female finisher among the 37 other participants, who are mostly the same faces that joined Saturday's running events.

Participants ran along the Beach Road Pathway from

See PIXLEY on Page 26

JON PEREZ
Steve Pixley slows down as he nears the finish line at Kilili Beach Park in yesterday's 2nd Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Freedom Run.